



And the winner is ... The Sea Coast Echo

We've been saying we're the best for awhile .. and now we've got the proof.

Page 3A



The Mural of the story

Pass Christian firefighter David Stratton spends his spare time beautifying his community.

Community, Page 1B

The Sea Coast Echo

Since 1892

VOL. 110, NO. 14 BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI

TWO SECTIONS, 24 PAGES 50 CENTS

Sunday
Feb. 18, 2001

Community Ed. classes open

It's not too late to register for the City/County Community Education classes. You can still sign up through the end of the week by calling 467-3892.

St. Paul's meet set for Feb. 21

The St. Paul's Seafood monthly meeting will be on Wednesday, Feb. 21, beginning at 6 p.m. in the school cafeteria. All are invited.

Krewe of Real People Parade

Anyone interested in putting a float in the Krewe of Real People Parade on Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 1 p.m. should contact Wesly Labat at 467-5580 or Pat Tice at 467-9543.

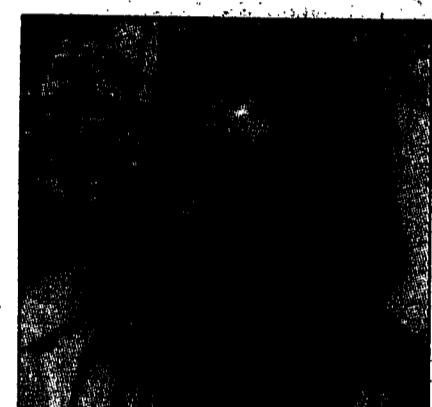
St. Rose Choir hosts concert

The St. Rose Adult Gospel Choir will host a Black History Month Concert at the church at 301 Necessaire on Tuesday, Feb. 20, beginning at 7 p.m.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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TIDES		
DAY	HIGH	LOW
Tues. 10:22 a.	8:40 a.	
Wed. 11:05 p.	9:57 a.	
Thurs. 11:45 p.	10:32 a.	
Fri. —	10:59 a.	
Sat. 12:25 a.	11:13 a.	
Sun. 1:07 a.	11:08 a..	



Fritz Garcia was convicted of murder Thursday.

BY GEOFF BELCHER
News Editor

A Rankin County Jury deliberated just two hours Thursday before finding Fritz James Garcia guilty of murder in the March 1997 stabbing death of Ruth K. Tuller.

"Garcia never denied killing the woman," Assistant D.A. Chris Schmidt said from his Hancock County office Friday. "He just said he was crazy at the time."

Schmidt, along with Assis-

tant D.A. Larry Bourgeois, prosecuted the case before Circuit Judge Jerry O. Terry.

Terry had moved Garcia's trial from Hancock County to the Rankin County Courthouse in Brandon, just east of Jackson, after he declared a mistrial in the case last December. The judge cited extensive media coverage of Garcia's brutal acts and of an incident involving lost evidence in the case as reason for moving the trial.

Although the fact that Garcia committed the crime was never in doubt, Schmidt said, jurors had to determine whether he was legally insane at the time of the murder.

If they had found him insane when he killed Tuller but now "restored to reason," Schmidt said, Garcia could have gotten away with only an permanent stay in a state mental institution.

Now, Schmidt said, Garcia faces a mandatory life sentence

without parole at Parchman state prison.

"Now that he's been sentenced, the bills (for his incarceration) will be picked up by the state Department of Corrections," Hancock County Sheriff Steve Garber said Friday. Basically, for the past four years, Hancock County has picked up all the bills for his medical care, food and everything."

GARCIA--PAGE 3A

Krewzin' with the Kids



These little clowns braved chilly temperatures Saturday to throw beads and entertain crowds at the annual Krewe of Kids Mardi Gras Parade on Dunbar Ave. in Bay St. Louis.

MPT to do R&D for U.S. at \$2.9M

Port firm's 2nd huge contract

BY ED LEPOMA
Staff Writer

Mississippi Polymer Technologies, Inc., located at Hancock County's Port Bienville Industrial Park, has landed a second huge government contract.

President Dr. Robert R. Gagne announced this week MPT has received a \$2.9 million research and development contract from the U.S. Air Force.

MPT, in competitive bidding with the U.S. National Science Foundation's Small Business Innovation Research Program, has also been awarded a \$100,000 R&D contract, which could lead to more work for its staff, he added.

MPT--PAGE 8A

Former Hancock High student among Army personnel injured in deadly helicopter crash

BY BENNIE
SHALLBETTER
Staff Writer

For one Hancock County family, the crash involving two Army Black Hawk helicopters in Hawaii on Monday that killed six people and injured eleven, was more than just a far away event. One of the injured soldiers, Private 1st Class Michael Allen Welch, of the 25th

Infantry Division stationed at Schofield, Hawaii, is a former Hancock High School student and son of Diane Baldwin of Hancock County and Mario Welch of New Orleans.

"I got a call just before 5 a.m. Monday night, about midnight Honolulu time," said Baldwin on Thursday. "They said that the accident happened about 7:30 p.m. the night before ... my

son insisted that they call me as soon as he was able to ... we are a close family and he wanted me to know what happened."

"He was in surgery at Tripler

Army Hospital for fourteen hours on Tuesday ... it was horrible because we couldn't be sure if the information we got on his injuries was accurate, we couldn't be sure that they were telling us everything," said

Baldwin. "But the surgeon and the surgical nurse and a Captain called me all through the day to give me progress on the operation."

Baldwin said her sons injuries were serious. "His leg was broke so badly that the bones were laying out of the skin in the dirt," said Baldwin.

SOLDIER--PAGE 8A



PFC Michael Allen Welch

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Peter Claver Royalty

Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver No. 6

The Knights of Peter Claver Court and Council No. 6 held their fifth annual Mardi Gras Ball Jan. 27 at the West Harrison Civic Center in Pass Christian.

Mistress and master of ceremony, "Lady Miriam" - Miyoka Broussard of WLOX-TV, and "Knight Dartanion" - Myron Labat Sr. of St. Stanislaus College, respectively, weaved the tale "A Fairy Tale Knight" which portrayed humor and romance.

"The Wizard of Oz" opened the evening with chairmen Marilyn Smith, "Glinda the Good Witch," and Alex Verrett, the "Tin Man," giving a welcome in rhyme.

Judith Verrett, "Dorothy," and Sammy Verrett as "Toto" entered in on Michael Jackson's "Ease On Down The Road" while Anthony Barabino, the "Scare Crow," entertained the crowd with the famous dance routine from the "Wiz."

"Aladdin," 2001 "Captain Nathaniel" Fairconnet, entered on his magic carpet, traveling in at a speed much faster than expected.

Little Elves, Greg Harvey Jr., son of Gregory and Lylie Harvey; Dedrick Labat, son of Myron Labat Jr. and Tracy James; Robert Harvey, son of Milas Harvey and Thrya Labat; Cedrick Walker Jr., son of Gary and Janita Cole; and Brian Barabino Jr., son of Brian and Tammy Barabino Sr., all secured his flight in and man-

aged all props throughout the evening.

Through intense pleading from Aladdin, "Genie," Co-Captain Paula Dedeaux, finally entered through a puff of smoke, a little upset at the request of still another wish.

"Cinderella and the Prince" were portrayed by outgoing King Joseph, Cedrick Hazeur, and Queen Naomi, Melanie Rabateau. The traditional tale left Cinderella, faced with the midnight hour, flashed to all by page Alexis Dorsey, daughter of Sam and Delores Dorsey.

The dance was cut short, and she was surprisingly left standing in rags, with the Prince now holding her ball gown. His search was to find the beauty who wore the dress, and you know the rest of the story.

2001 Duke and Duchess, Paula Fairconnet and Earl Dedeaux acted out "Sleeping Beauty and the Prince." Our Princess, did not have a prick from the spindly wheel, but a taste from a spellbound bowl of gumbo, given by the Wicked Fairy Rhonda Labat.

Onlookers planted a couple of kisses, but none had the magic to awaken the Princess...not until the romantic kiss from the Prince. Awakened from her slumber, Sleeping Beauty and her Prince took their places on the throne.

The enchanting forest brought out the "Fairies," Britney Williams, daughter of Philip and Beverly Williams,

and Britney Johnson, daughter of Ackin and Tina Harrell.

They discovered a beautiful box and within it found the royal crowns which they methodically carried up and placed on pedestals.

2001 King Joseph V, better known as "King Arthur," was Russell Fairconnet, retired from Dupont/DeLisle and a resident of Bay St. Louis.

He is a member of the Knights of Peter Claver Council No. 6. Queen Naomi V, known as "Lady Guenivere," was Stella Mitchell an employee at the US Naval Battalion.

The queen entered attired in gold velvet/royal blue satin medieval dress and headpiece. She was lead in by the 4th Degree Royal Knights of Peter Claver, Sir Joseph Robert and Sir Otis Gates and entered through their arched swords to await her king.

"King Arthur" entered the area, dressed in complementary medieval costume to the queen, removed his sword from the rock, and was escorted by the Royal Knights into the ballroom to meet his Lady and Queen, Guenivere.

Outgoing King and Queen crowned the new Royalty and a toast was made by the Captain.

Following the royal promenade, the Captain invited all onlookers to join the royal court in what else...a line dance. Music for the evening was provided by "Hotline Show Band" from Lafayette.

Public hearing set on 3 more rubbish sites

BY ED LEPOMA
Staff Writer

Hancock County's Regional Solid Waste Authority has begun the official process needed to add three more rubbish sites. Two would be located south of Interstate 10, and one north of I-10.

At last Tuesday's meeting, the Authority voted to authorize consultant Bill Johnson of Compton Engineering to advertise for a 30-day comment period. Following the comment period, the Authority plans to hold a public hearing on the three proposals at 7 p.m. March 27 in the civic Center on Longfellow Road.

The addition of any rubbish site requires an amendment to the county's 20-year Solid Waste Plan. The Authority has adopted a policy of charging applicants the shared cost of upgrading the plan and forwarding it to the state Department of Environmental Quality.

If eventually permitted by the state DEQ, two more rubbish sites would be added south of Interstate 10 and one more north, in the Catahoula Community.

The Class II rubbish sites are used mainly by contractors clearing lots and disposing of construction materials. Tree limbs, vegetation, building debris and other non-hazardous items can be discarded at the pits.

Joey Boudin is seeking permission to open an 80-acre rubbish site in the Bayou LaCroix Community. The site is located off U.S. Hwy. 90 on Rifle Range

Road.

• W.C. Fore Construction is seeking permission to open a 40-acre site in Bayou LaCroix, also located off Hwy. 90 and on Rifle Range Road.

• TCB Construction has proposed a 25-acre site in the Catahoula Community off Hwy. 43.

All three of the sites are within the buffer zone surrounding the Stennis Space Center.

Following the public hearing, the state DEQ will make the final determination on permitting the sites.

In other business, Authority Administrator Stacey Myrick reported the cost of hauling and disposing of Hancock County's garbage is going up.

The county's contractor, Waste Management, Inc., officially notified the Authority beginning March 1, its rate would increase 3.4 percent.

With the addition of any rubbish site requires an amendment to the county's 20-year Solid Waste Plan. The Authority has adopted a policy of charging applicants the shared cost of upgrading the plan and forwarding it to the state Department of Environmental Quality.

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Joey Boudin is seeking permission to open an 80-acre rubbish site in the Bayou LaCroix Community. The site is located off U.S. Hwy. 90 on Rifle Range

based on the Consumer Price Index. The charge will go from \$18 to \$18.61 a ton to dispose of household garbage in the Pecan Grove Landfill. Myrick told the Echo Hancock County paid

\$1,368,807 to dispose of 17,887.7 tons of garbage last year. The hike would add \$10,911.50 more to the annual total cost, she said.

The rate hike came as the Authority continues to pay bills on a "pay as you go" policy because some property owners in the rural areas of Hancock County have resisted paying the \$5 monthly charge for once-a-week garbage pickup.

Myrick reported the Authority had bills due for the month amounting to \$164,093, but expected revenue amounted to \$153,980. The Authority is short \$6,886 for the month, and Commissioners instructed Myrick to use her discretion paying vendors.

The Eighteenth Annual Thomas P. Clarke Memorial Black History Month Program sponsored by the Hancock County Branch of the NAACP will be held on Sat., Feb. 24 at 1 p.m. at the Bay St. Louis Train Depot.

Chamber sets cleanup for Mar. 3

BY ELLIS C. CUEVAS
Publisher Emeritus

In anticipation for the upcoming 54th annual Gulf Coast Spring Pilgrimage in early March, the Hancock County Chamber of Commerce Beautification Committee will sponsor a countywide cleanup Saturday, March 3, from 8 a.m. to noon.

The Chamber's Beautification Committee's theme for 2001 is "Litter Free Begins with Me."

As part of its "Litter Free Begins with Me" campaign, the Hancock Chamber will provide necessary supplies for clean-up volunteers throughout the county.

Groups or individuals can pre-register for the cleanup in advance by calling 467-9048, or on the morning of the cleanup beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the chamber office. Supplies for the cleanup are available at the chamber.

As an encouragement for participation, Basil Kennedy of Union Planters Bank will once again place "Litter Bucks" along Beach Boulevard. The "Litter Bucks" can be redeemed at the chamber office on Monday following the cleanup.

One of the primary areas to be cleaned will be Beach Boulevard from Bayou Caddy to the mouth of the Jourdan River.

The chamber office will be assigning sections of the beach to student groups, civic groups, family members, organizations and industries.

For information call the chamber at 467-9048.

The annual Mississippi Gulf Coast Spring Pilgrimage is March 8 through March 17.

Groups from schools, churches, businesses, industries, civic organizations and individuals are all invited and encouraged to participate in the cleanup.

Betsy Ashman, chamber vice-chair of the Beautification Committee said, "While we have seen more people involved over the years in our cleanup efforts, I would like to see much more participation."

Ashman continued, "Our area is still improving in appearance, and a lot of that goes to the efforts of our concerned officials from our two cities and county."

Darlene Underwood, Extension home economist said, "We are now in the Mardi Gras season, and that means there will be parades around the area. I would also like to urge parade goers that they can help in our cleanup efforts by bagging their

trash at the parades and take it home and properly dispose of it. The help of everyone is needed for us to see our community the way we would like it to be seen by visitors to our area."

Lynn Bell, president of the Garden Isles Community Association, reports her organization will be out in force cleaning up their community March 3.

She said, "If everyone did their part by disposing of litter properly, plus reach out a little beyond themselves in collecting the litter around us, then we would make a significant impact on our community."

Bell added, "It will take a team effort of persons of all ages, and that includes our youngsters, oldsters and all ages in between to make this a reality. We all walk over, around, or whatever about the litter around us in our communities, yet very few of us take the initiative to stop and pick it up. I am hoping that on Saturday, March 3, there will be a complete effort by folks coming out and helping us rid our country of litter."

Kennedy, a longtime member of the chamber's Beautification Committee, and also a person who himself collects litter on a regular basis said, "Collecting

litter is one of the greatest things since red beans. It is great we get the youngsters out on our cleanups, because it gives them a lasting impression on the importance of keeping our community clean. In addition it sure helps when they are accompanied by a parent, as children gain knowledge by learning their parents."

Gordon Crooks, president of the Ansley Herron Bay Civic Association, (formerly Ansley-Lakeshore Civic Association), reports his group will be out on March 3 to clean up their community.

Crooks said, "We will start at the end of Heron Bay Road and work the three and one-half miles to Lower Bay Road and also some of the connecting roads. We will begin at 8 a.m. and finish about noon."

Sue Duffy, coordinator for the Lazy River Road area reports that she and her group plan on participating in the March cleanup.

The chamber's beautification chairman is Ellis C. Cuevas, and the committee's next meeting is set for 10 a.m. at the chamber's office on Tuesday, Feb. 20. Any citizen concerned about beautification is encouraged to attend Tuesday's meeting.

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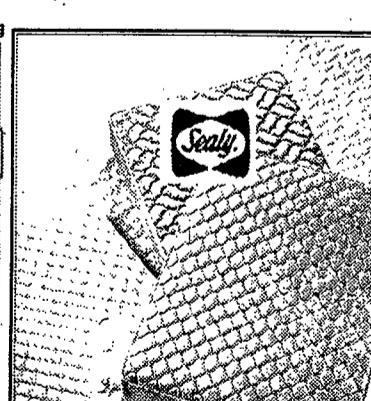
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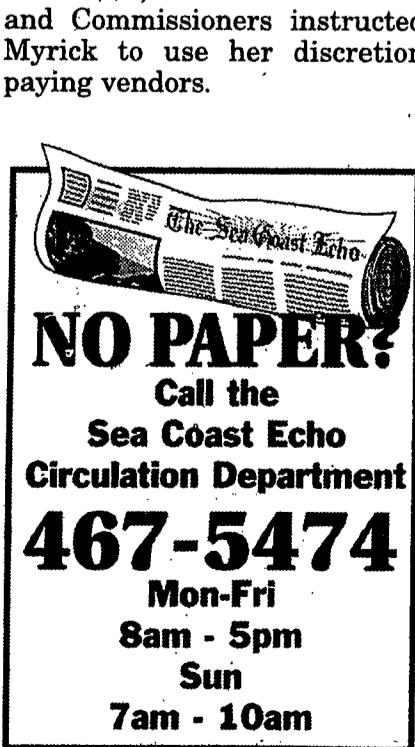
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388-6200 (north of Edgewater Mall next to Cellular South)

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Arrest Record

Editor's note: The following is a complete list of arrests logged at the Hancock County Justice Facility from Jan. 7 through Jan. 19. Appearance on the jail log is not indicative of guilt, merely a record that an arrest has been made.

ECHO STAFF REPORT

- Christopher John Farrell, 7/11/81, marijuana possession.
- Scott Bishop Taylor, 7/25/82, possession of marijuana, disorderly conduct.
- Fredrick Loring Bugbee III, 2/5/82, possession of marijuana.
- Michael Leverne Thompson, 3/23/75, possession of a controlled substance.
- Clyde D. Fricke Jr., 6/15/68, false pretense.
- Jimmy George, 11/20/77, probation violation, contempt of court.
- Charles Grimsley, 7/8/77, suspended license.
- Kevin Gary, 5/7/79, possession of stolen property, grand larceny auto, arson of auto.
- Elizabeth K. Martin, 2/22/79, possession of stolen property, grand larceny auto, arson of auto.
- Tina M. Burge, 2/22/57, DUI, reckless driving, contempt of court.
- Paul A. Boudreaux, 8/22/68, simple assault.
- Clayton W. Russell Jr., 9/11/58, simple assault.
- Valerie Darlene Eakins, 4/19/72, bad checks X 5, shoplifting, probation violation.
- Daniel Alley, 6/2/66, simple assault (domestic).
- Michael A. Pace, 6/30/64, suspended license.
- Mack D. Makofsky, 6/7/80, simple possession, no license, careless driving.
- Richard P. Murs, 9/29/50, suspended license.
- Carmelo Murphy Jr., 2/24/55, simple assault (domestic).
- Ronald L. Bergeron, 10/5/57, trespassing.
- Henri P. Saucier, 12/30/62, disturbance of family (domestic).
- Debra A. Saucier, 2/19/71, simple assault (domestic), disturbance of family (domestic).
- John E. Necaise, 7/17/70, simple assault (domestic).
- Robin R. Pascual, 6/29/58, simple assault.
- James Brashier, 8/8/46, simple assault.
- William H. Collins, 12/8/61, simple assault.
- Brian J. Downey, 8/9/66, grand larceny.
- Robert Avrard, 3/21/80, simple assault (domestic).
- Jay Alex Kelley, 9/24/70, contempt of court.
- Tory L. Acker, 1/26/79, simple assault X 2.
- Sylvia A. Acker, 10/15/53, simple assault X 2.
- Richard A. Hemphill, 12/11/73, hold for Georgia.
- Mark D. Ottaway, 9/27/61, contempt of court X 2.
- Jamaal Terry, 2/14/79, 60 days to serve.
- Willie Nelson, 5/31/64, 60 days to serve.
- Alfred J. Selle, 9/8/76, simple assault (domestic).
- Charlie D. Huffman, 6/12/77, aggravated assault, assault on a minor.
- Ervin T. Domino, armed robbery.
- Mitchell Whittington, 5/14/78, disturbance of family (domestic).
- Casey Eugene Potter, 3/18/70, disorderly conduct.
- Dinalynn Inez Potter, 6/27/69, disorderly conduct.
- Richard R. Hall, 6/15/62, contempt of court.
- Kimberly Munizza, 9/5/65, DUI first.
- Rodrick J. Bolton, 4/21/79, hold for Lucedale P.D.
- Anthony Chirico, 8/27/61, burglary.
- Mike E. Hill, 6/10/82, possession of stolen property, suspended license.
- Ryan C. Calhoun, 6/5/81, public intoxication, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, contributing to a minor.
- Tony Ramirez, 7/14/63, one count bad check.
- Michael Grady, 12/27/60, public intoxication.
- Scott Scargrough, 2/7/67, failure to check out.
- Charles E. Necasie, 7/23/65, domestic violence.
- Robert J. Mitchell, 9/24/65, DUI second, suspended license.
- Marvin Gene Cooksey, 12/20/56, DUI second.
- Julie Davidson, 7/13/63, DUI first, careless driving.
- Jason L. Hupp, 6/5/75, suspended license, no proof of insurance.
- Conrad Saucier, 5/2/53, simple assault (domestic).
- Linda Hurt (a.k.a. Linda ple assault (domestic).
- Susan Jean Taylor, 9/13/61, hold for Florida.
- Virginia Ann Edelman, 12/5/64, possession with intent, possession of a controlled substance.
- Donna G. Peterson, 9/1/62, shoplifting, contempt of court.
- Jason Anthony Delle, 6/27/80, burglary, resisting arrest by flight.
- Anthony R. Hatchett, 7/28/75, simple assault (domestic).
- Kimberley Munizza, 9/5/65, DUI first.
- Timothy Thomas, 7/4/78, possession of a controlled substance, possession of stolen property.
- Hiram A. Blackwell, 4/8/71, possession of valium, possession of darvocet, contempt of court.
- Anthony M. Dailey, 3/27/62,mittimus (time served in lieu of paying fine).
- John R. Harris, 8/22/74, simple assault (domestic), probation violation.
- Jodie Brignac, 12/2/70, DUI.
- Sammy Joe Griffith, 5/22/36, fugitive from Louisiana.
- Lee Humes, 10/23/82, fugitive from St. Tammany Parish.
- Wesley J. Ladner, 10/25/67, simple assault (domestic).
- Robert Sandoval, 9/20/69, public intoxication.
- Richard A. Ben, 6/1/82, possession of alcohol under 21.
- Tiffany Carver, 1/11/80, forgery - 14 counts.
- Orrin Daniel Deneal, soliciting.
- Yvonne McLaughlin, 3/2/59, simple assault on a minor X 2.



Sea Coast Echo employees honored for helping the paper achieve the Mississippi Press Association's prestigious "Best Print Quality Award" include, from left, Media/Technology Manager Donna J. Smith, Production Manager Mike Benson and Pre-press Technician Pedro "Tony" Monti.

The Sea Coast Echo honored by the Mississippi Press Association

ECHO STAFF REPORT

The Sea Coast Echo earned several awards at the recent Mississippi Press Association's Winter Convention held in Jackson.

The awards include, first place, "Best Print Quality Award," first place, "Best Theme Page," second place and honorable mention for "Best Section or Edition Dedicated to an Editorial Topic," third place to

Cecilia Howe for, "Best Single Retail Advertisement, Black and White," second place to Trina Lizana for, "Best Single Display Classified Ad," and honorable mention to Suzette Carlson for, "Best Single Retail Advertisement, Black and White."

"The awards are the result of a team effort by our dedicated staff," Sea Coast Echo Editor and Publisher James R.

"Randy" Ponder stated. "It's always good to be recognized by one's peers and I am happy for my employees, but the real winners are our loyal advertisers and readers."

"I am especially pleased with the Best Print Quality Award," Ponder added. "I have always maintained that the print quality of the Sea Coast Echo is second to none."

"The judges agree."

DMR establishes No Wake Zone in Hancock

In accordance with Mississippi Code 25-43-7, which allows for the adoption of emergency rules, and Commission on Marine Resources Ordinance 16.002, which allows the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR) to establish temporary specific no wake zones, the Executive Director of the DMR has ordered the establishment of the following temporary specific no wake zone.

The no wake zone is described as follows:

Within waters of Jourdan River that are within 500 feet of the Interstate 10 highway bridge.

These rules shall be effective for 120 days from the date of this notice unless canceled by further directive.

The reason for establishing the temporary specific no wake zone is to allow for the

replacement of the Interstate 10 highway bridge. All vessels should transit the area with caution.

A no wake zone is defined as an area of navigable marine water in which vessels are not

allowed to create a potentially damaging wake or to operate a vessel above idle speed.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2001

OPINION

pg 4A



Cuevas' Quotes

by Ellis C. Cuevas
Publisher Emeritus

Today is the big Mardi Gras day for Waveland-Bay St. Louis with the Krewe of Nereids set to roll at 1 p.m.

The parade forms at the Choctaw Plaza Shopping Center, travels east on Highway 90 to Bouslog (by post office) and then west on 90 to Waveland Avenue where it will disband.

Nereids is followed by the krewe of Eros and Hancock and should consist of some 100 or so floats.

The ladies of Nereids will mark their 35th parade, and it is hard to realize it has been that long since the organization began parading in Waveland.

The parade began with a few floats and has just continued to grow in size and spectator attendance.

The costumes of the queens and maids are very vibrant this year. Just to see the beautiful costumes is enough to make one want to view the parade.

By parading on Highway 90, it gives parade goers a good viewing opportunity. There is parking space available on the side streets of the highway. Thousands and thousands of viewers are expected to be on hand for the parade.

Mardi Gras parades do create a lot of litter, and parade viewers can help curb some of the litter by bringing along a plastic bag to store their debris. This would help the clean-up crews which have to tackle the trash after the parade. A little help from everyone can go a long way.

I hope to see you at the Nereids parade this afternoon.

While on the subject of litter, the Hancock County Chamber of Commerce's annual spring cleanup is set for Saturday, March 3.

This is in preparation for the annual Mississippi Gulf Coast Pilgrimage which is set March 8 through 17.

Organizations, groups, industries, student groups, etc., are all being asked to participate in the cleanup. Just give the chamber a call at 467-9048. The cleanup will be from 8 a.m. to noon.

The chamber has the supplies necessary for the cleanup.

This year's theme is, "Litter Free Begins with Me." We can all help make a difference, and I am hoping we will have lots of volunteers on Saturday, March 3.

I hope to see you at the cleanup on March 3.

Isn't it great that we have an attraction right here in Hancock County that was selected as the Mississippi Tourism Attraction of the Year?

At the Governor's Conference on Tourism held in Jackson, the John C. Stennis Space Center's StenniSphere received the award.

Just think, since its opening last Memorial Day, the StenniSphere had some 170,000 visitors from all 50 states and 26 countries.

As you will remember, the museum at Stennis was enlarged last year to 14,000 square feet of interactive exhibits, etc., which reflects the history and missions of the Stennis Space Center and the local area.

I just wonder how many local residents have not taken a tour of the new StenniSphere. It is a great place for parents or grandparents to take their youngsters as a family outing, and the tour is free.

StenniSphere is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except for Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

All tours of the Stennis Space Center begin at the Hancock County Welcome Center on I-10. Free bus tours begin at NASA's Launch Pad and transport visitors on a free guided tour of America's largest rocket test complex in addition to a visit to the StenniSphere.

In addition to the exhibits at the StenniSphere, there is a local cuisine restaurant done in an early 1960s theme and an expanded gift shop.

If you haven't visited the StenniSphere, you do not know what you are missing.

This past week in the Senate we passed the halfway point in the session and had a very productive, but not very exciting week.

There was very little floor action as we once again broke up into committees each day to handle the bills that have come to us after being approved by the House of Representatives.

The House began work on bills we approved and sent to them.

On Wednesday we began some of the most important work we'll do this year as we handled some of the scores of appropriations bills we see each year, approving budgets for state agencies. Although not very exciting, this is critical work to ensure our state agencies have enough money to serve the people they work for, in whatever sector of the state.

This year the work has been especially difficult because of the tight revenue situation we are in. As we've noted many times before, the state's econo-

my is still growing, just not at the pace that our experts predicted.

Because of that slowdown, we have had to be very cautious in the budgeting process. Every year we try to exercise caution in spending taxpayer money. This year everyone has had to tighten his or her belt, and the Legislature has had to oversee that process.

Because of the revenue situation, we stuck closely to what out legislative budget analysts projected in order to complete our work with a balanced budget, which we must do every year.

We handled over 35 appropriations bills ranging from budgets for the state Tax Commission to the governor's office and Mansion. We will finish the rest of the agency budgets within the next two weeks.

On Thursday we approved five nominations from the governor to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Institutions of Higher Learning or what is

commonly known as the College Board.

These nominations are extremely important because the people serving on the board oversee almost every facet of life in our colleges and universities.

Because they are in such positions of trust, we take a close look at every nomination.

This year the Universities and Colleges Committee held hearings and interviewed the candidates, brought us these recommendations with high praise and we confirmed them.

So with the session half over, we're still focused on doing the best we can for the people of our state.

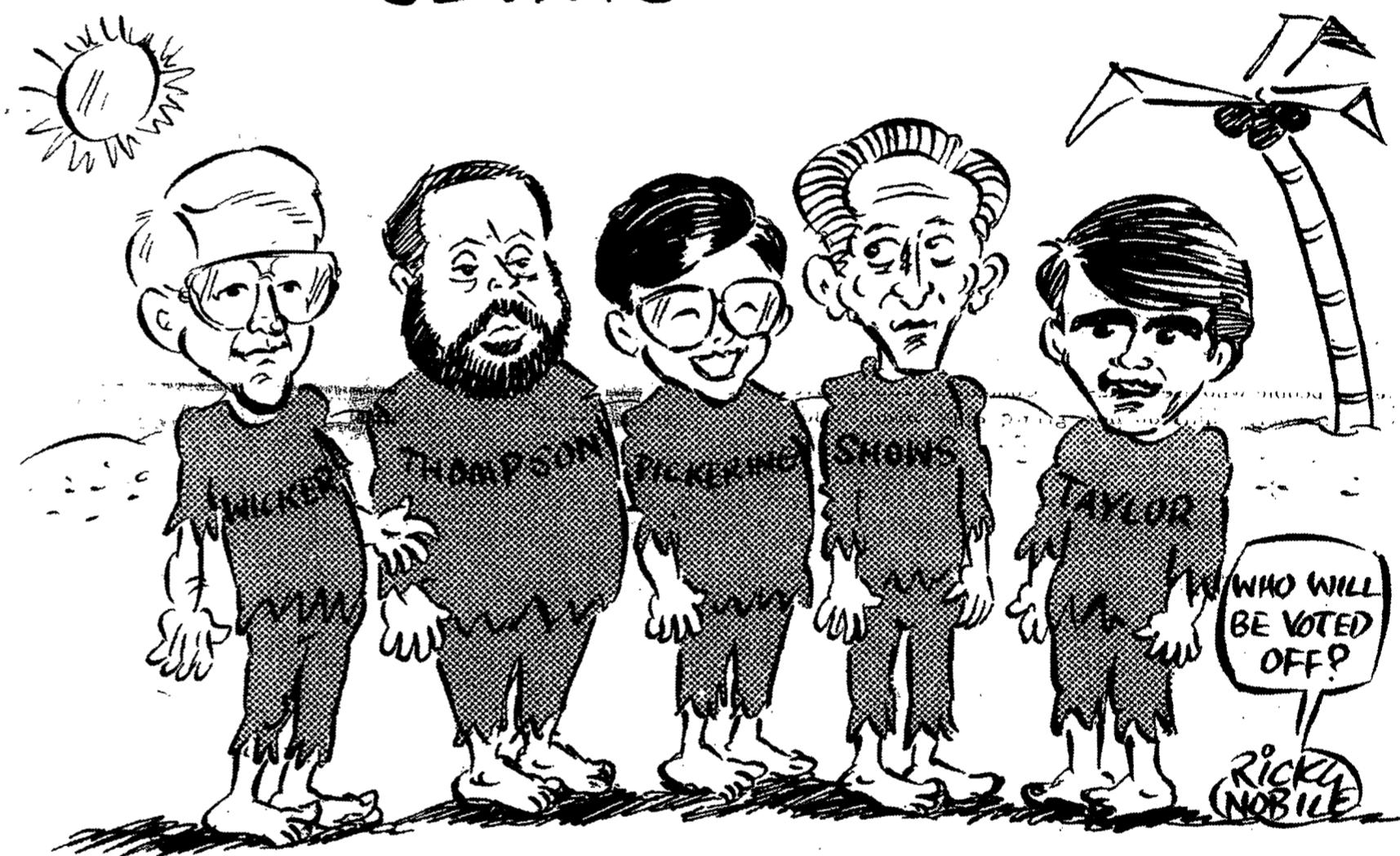
We have dealt with issues as complex and important as school safety and our exploding prison population and we will continue to work towards the successful resolution of our state's problems and furthering the goals that will make our state better in the future.

Senator Cuevas may be reached in Jackson at 601-359-3770 or by writing to P.O. Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39215.

FROM THE MISSISSIPPI SENATE

By State Senator Scottie Cuevas

SURVIVOR 2001



TECHNICALITIES

By State Auditor Phil Bryant COUNTIES

Q May a board of supervisors bury dead livestock killed as a result of a natural emergency such as a heat wave?

A Yes. If the board of supervisors declares a natural disaster pursuant to Sections 33-15-5 and 33-15-49, county employees and equipment may venture onto private property to bury dead livestock in order to prevent the spread of disease or other health hazards to the community at large.

(Attorney General's opinion to Litchliter dated December 15, 2000)

Q May a justice court charge a "drop fee" in a matter of criminal charges which are dropped by the affiant (injured party)? What fees should be charged if the defendant has been arrested and a fee is due to the constable or sheriff's department?

(Attorney General's opinion to Wilson dated December 15, 2000)

A There is no authority for a justice court to charge a "drop fee" for a case to be dismissed; however, Section 99-15-51 provides that for prosecutions of petty misdemeanors, if the injured party acknowledges receipt of satisfaction, upon motion of the prosecuting attorney, the court may discharge the defendant, dismiss the proceedings and may require the payment of court costs by the defendant.

dant.

(Attorney General's opinion to Glenn dated November 10, 2000)

Q May a county condemn property for use as a school bus turnaround?

A No. No authority is found for a county to condemn property for a school bus turnaround; the property owner must consent or have no objection to its use as a school bus turnaround.

(Attorney General's opinion to Gex dated December 15, 2000)

Q May a sheriff restrict his deputies' outside employment?

A Yes, the sheriff has authority to set policy with regard to any additional outside employment opportunities that may conflict with the deputies' or employees' responsibilities with the sheriff's department.

(Attorney General's opinion to Wilson dated December 15, 2000)

Q May a justice court charge a "drop fee" in a matter of criminal charges which are dropped by the affiant (injured party)? What fees should be charged if the defendant has been arrested and a fee is due to the constable or sheriff's department?

(Attorney General's opinion to Wilson dated December 15, 2000)

GENERAL

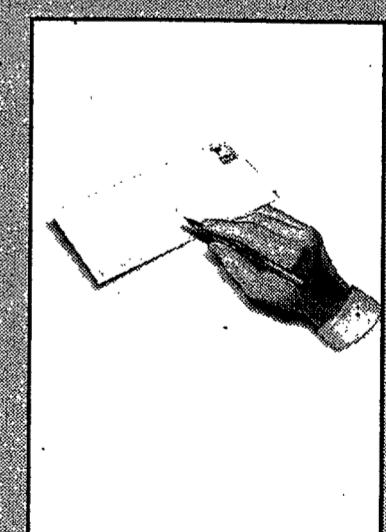
Q May the governing boards authorize and obtain credit cards to be issued in the name of an individual university, community college, school, county, city, airport authority, port authority or other entity under their authority for official business use or official travel related expenses?

A No, except for credit cards

Letters to the Editor

Our letters policy

The Sea Coast Echo welcomes comments from its readers. Letters must be signed and include address or telephone number. Letters should be brief, preferably typewritten and double-spaced. Only one letter per writer per month. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject letters. Letters of thanks, expressions of appreciation and political endorsements are inappropriate.



for use by the sheriff and deputies in the performance of duties as authorized by Section 19-25-13 and for fuel access cards pursuant to a term contract as authorized by Sections 31-7-12 or 31-7-13, there is no authority for the following entities to authorize and obtain credit cards:

Public Universities, Community Colleges and School Districts (Attorney General's opinion to Murray dated November 17, 2000)

Port Authorities (Attorney General's opinion to Hunter dated March 2, 1994)

Section 25-3-41 sets forth procedures for authorization for travel expense for employees traveling on official business.

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TODAY

Seal announces for councilman Ward 1

City Councilman Ward 1 Doug Seal, you was elected in a special election in June of 2000, is asking to be re-elected.

Seal is married to Michele Moran Seal, and they have two boys, Cody, 13, and Cayce, 8.



Doug Seal

Seal is employed with GE Plastics. A graduate of Picayune High School, he also attended U.S. Navy Electronics School and the Mississippi Realtor Institute.

His statement:

Help available to MS residents struggling with high energy bills

MS Consumer Guidance has established a grant fund to help people who are having financial problems because of high energy costs.

This grant program is funded by private donations from corporations and private citizens who receive a tax exemption because of the organization's 501(c)3 non-profit status granted by the Internal Revenue Service.

"Many people who are struggling with energy bills do not know that financial assistance is available from non-profit organizations and from the government," says Jim Surasak, national spokesperson for Consumer Guidance.

"We have established the Energy Help Grant Program and also publish a number of booklets to help consumers who are struggling with rising energy costs."

Consumer Guidance

Summer Leadership Studies now accepting applications

Applications are now being accepted by the University of Southern Mississippi for the summer Leadership Studies program for children in grades 6-11. The application deadline for the June 17-22 residential program is March 31. Tuition includes room and board.

First-time participants take Leadership I, which covers fundamental leadership skills — including written and oral communication, group dynamics, problem-solving, planning, personal skills and decision-making.

Leadership II, offered to second-year students, builds on principles taught in the first course. Emphasis is placed on the psychology of leadership, assertiveness training and situational leadership.

For applications or additional information, contact the Leadership Studies Program, University of Southern Mississippi, Box 8207, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-8207, or call (601) 266-5236 or e-mail at gifted.studies@usm.edu.

Clowns on display at Kilm Public Library

A collection of clowns is now on display at the Kilm Public Library through March 12.

Owned by Jean Bruneau of the Kilm community, the collection consists of a wide variety of clowns, including clown dolls, clown clocks and clown kachinas from New Mexico.

Bruneau's collection began in 1981 with a gift of a clown doll, and has now grown to more than 100 items.

More information is available by calling the Kilm Public Library at 255-1724. The library system can be accessed through the World Wide Web at www.hancock.lib.ms.us.

DialPac, the library system's automated catalog, can be accessed via home, business or school modem by dialing 463-0024.

Bruneau's collection began in 1981 with a gift of a clown doll, and has now grown to more



Giving the gift of life

Pearl River Community College's Iota Mu chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society recently co-sponsored a blood drive with United Blood Services in Shivers Gymnasium and collected 104 units from 129 volunteers who were interviewed. UBS spokesperson Beverly Clark said the net was short of the drive's 150-unit goal, but noted sickness and cold weather hampered the turnout. Clark added that each unit of blood goes to help three patients, which means 312 will benefit from the PTK drive. Here freshman Jamie Saucier of Necaise (front) and sophomore Kim Peterson of Picayune are doing their part. The PRCC Associate Degree Nursing Program is to host another UBS drive in March or April. (PRCC photo)

Aid available for USMGC culinary arts students

Current and prospective students of the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast's Culinary Arts Academy can now apply for financial aid.

Federal financial aid is available in the form of Pell grants.

"This is a major milestone for our culinary arts program," said Karlene Koch, coordinator of advisement and training at the academy.

"We're a new program, having been established in 1996, and it has finally come through for us. This will mean a lot for students who have wanted to be part of the program but haven't been able to afford it."

Financial aid for culinary arts students begins with the fall semester. Students will be eligible for all forms of federal and state financial aid, including Pell grants and Stafford

loans. The same eligibility requirements will apply as apply to students in other fields.

The priority deadline for applying for the fall semester is March 15. Applications are available in the USMGC Financial Aid office in the Administration Building on the Gulf Park campus. Federal financial aid applications are available on-line at <www.fafsa.ed.gov>.

For more information, call Financial Aid at (228) 865-4513. For information about the Culinary Arts Academy, call Koch at (228) 867-8783, or visit the website at <www.culinaryacademy.usm.edu>.

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than 100 items. More information is available by calling the Kilm Public Library at 255-1724. The library system can be accessed through the World Wide Web at www.hancock.lib.ms.us.

DialPac, the library system's automated catalog, can be accessed via home, business or school modem by dialing 463-0024.

Bruneau's collection began in 1981 with a gift of a clown doll, and has now grown to more

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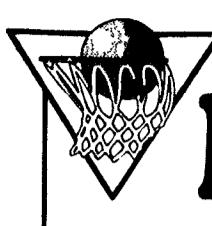
More information is available by calling the Kilm Public Library at 255-1724. The library system can be accessed through the World Wide Web at www.hancock.lib.ms.us.

DialPac, the library system's automated catalog, can be accessed via home, business or school modem by dialing 463-0024.

Bruneau's collection began in 1981 with a gift of a clown doll, and has now grown to more

than 100 items.

More information is available by calling the K



BASKETBALL.update

Wildcats clinch South Division crown with win over Bulldogs

Pearl River Community College's Wildcats enter next week's South Division Tournament as the No. 1 seed, after disposing of arch-rival Mississippi Gulf Coast 87-79 to clinch the division's 2001 regular season title Thursday in M.R. White Coliseum.

PRCC ended its regular season at 18-7 overall and 10-2 in division play, while the visiting Bulldogs fell to 19-6 and 9-3.

Pearl River's women, on the other hand, led by as much as 20 in the first half over the Lady Bulldogs, but succumbed in the second half to lose 70-61 and fall to 12-12 and 5-7. Gulf Coast's women improved to 14-9 and 4-8.

In the men's game, the Wildcats took the lead in the opening minutes and built their advantage to as much as 11, 32-21 in the final two minutes of first half. PRCC led 34-26 at the intermission, but Gulf Coast opened the second half with a 19-10 run to take a short-lived 45-44 edge with 13:50 left when freshman Marquez Moultrie hit one of his six three pointers for the night.

Pearl River answered with an impressive 22-10 run to again go up by 11 66-55 when sophomore Taboris Lindsey connected on one of his three treys with 6:55 left. The Bulldogs managed to cut the lead to six twice during the remaining time.

Pearl River shot 50 percent (29 of 58) from the field, 40 percent in the first half and 61 percent in the second, while hitting a season-best 78 percent (seven of nine) from three-point range. Gulf Coast shot 39 percent (29 of 74) from the field and 34 percent (11 of 32) from three-point range. Zeke Davis of St. Stanislaus scored 10 points.

In the women's game, the score was tied five times in the early going before PRCC went on a 32-12 run to go up by 20 42-22 for the largest lead of the game. The Lady Wildcats led 44-27 at the intermission, but Gulf Coast fought back. The Lady Bulldogs opened the second half

with a 36-17 run to take a 63-61 edge with 2:50 left and the Lady Wildcats never recovered.

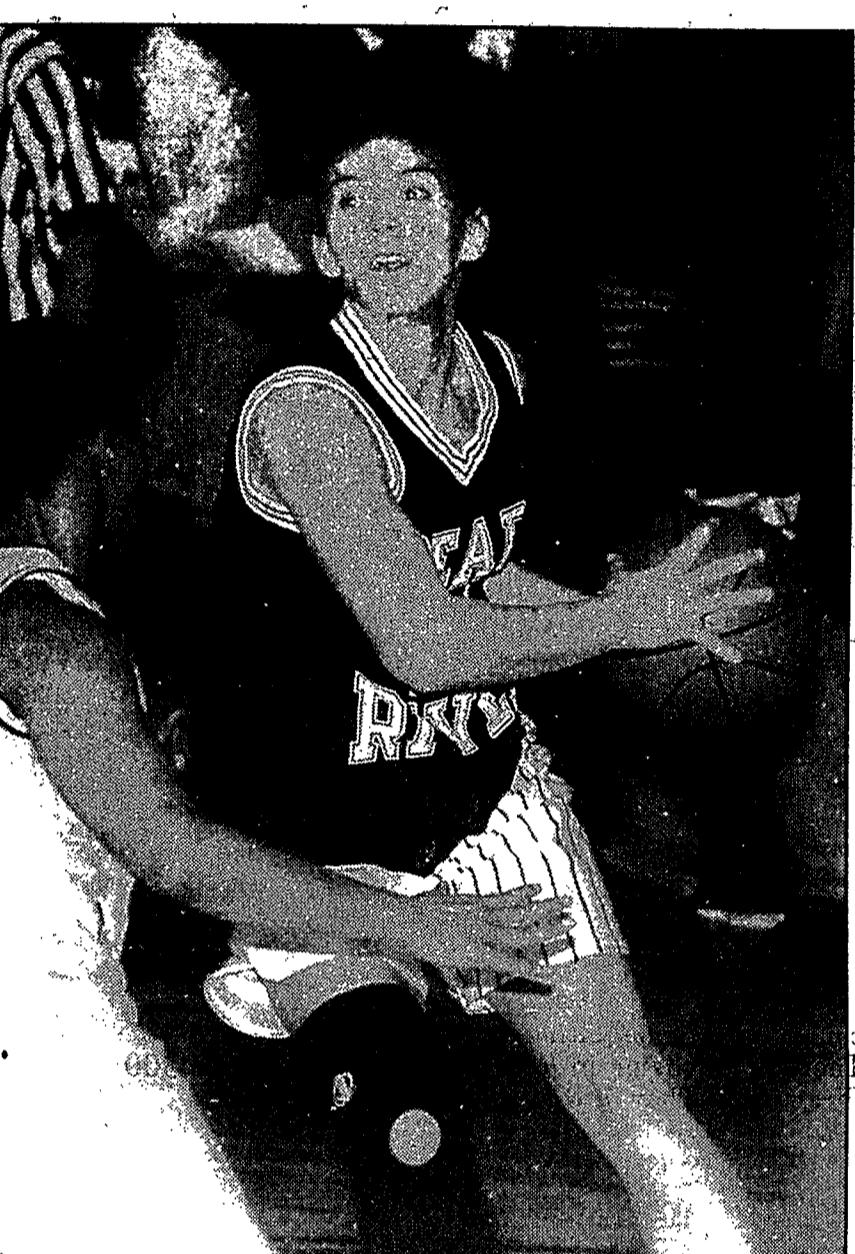
Sophomore Mindy Ladner of Hancock County paced Pearl River with 16 points (five rebounds), while freshman Dee Flenory of North Forrest added 13 (six boards), freshman Michelle Small of New Orleans and sophomore Jessica Pucheu of Hancock, 10 each; freshmen Millie Graves of Bassfield and Brandi Ladner of Hancock, four each; sophomores Lori

DeSilvey of Hancock and Quinisia Hatten of North

Forrest, two each. Pucheu also finished with two treys, five rebounds, five assists, and three steals, while Small had one trey.

The Lady Wildcats were 68-63 winners over Gulf Coast, while the Wildcats took a 58-56 win over the Bulldogs Jan. 22 in Perkinston.

The South Division Tournament will be held Monday through Thursday, while the 2001 State Tournament will be hosted by the South men's champ Feb. 26-27 (Monday and Tuesday).



Lady Wildcat sophomore point guard Jessica Pucheu of Hancock County scored ten points and had five assists and three steals against the Lady Bulldogs.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program signup announced for March 19

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat on private lands.

WHIP is a voluntary program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Participants who own or control land agree to prepare and implement a wildlife habitat development plan containing wildlife habitat conservation practices to be installed on the land.

The plan describes the landowner's goals for improving wildlife habitat, includes a list of practices and schedule for installing them.

The plan also details the steps necessary to maintain the habitat for the life of the agreement. The agreement lasts 6-10 years from the date the contract is signed.

The landowner agrees to maintain the cost-shared practices

and allow USDA or its agent access to monitor the effectiveness of the practices.

The NRCS agrees to provide technical assistance and pays 75 percent of the cost of installing the wildlife habitat practices. Cost-share payments may be used to establish or replace practices.

Land is not eligible for WHIP if it is currently enrolled in the Water Bank Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, or other similar programs.

Under WHIP, applications are ranked. Habitat factors and

point values will be assigned to the land or tract that is submitted for WHIP.

Native habitat improvement and other types of improvements that are installed will govern the ranking of individual applications.

The WHIP signup begins March 19 at local NRCS offices. The application deadline will be April 13.

For more information, contact your local county NRCS office. All programs and services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture are available on a non-discriminatory basis.

D'head Women's Golf results

The Diamondhead Women's Golf Association held a Points Tournament Feb. 15.

Winners in the First Flight were Rita Champion 1st, Mary Hays 2nd, and Alice Matthews 3rd.

First Flight winners were Til Garrison 1st, Christel

Fitzsching 2nd, and Mary Clare Skaggs 3rd.

Second Flight winners were Margaret Hill 1st, Rose Stackhouse 2nd, and Sam Durham 1st, Mary Hays 2nd, and Alice Matthews 3rd.

Third Flight winners were Dot Morrison 1st, Kathy Crouch 2nd, and JoAnne Smith 3rd.

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EXPRESS LUBE & SERVICE	TUNE UP
CENTER	SPEEDEE OIL CHANGE &
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BY J

If one high school Friday, Friday, Friday have found any am new stat on the High School Bay glided wi Lady Wa the the Stanisla #1-rank Tide for 7 Class 4

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Dupuy Bay High in the t relinquis sophomo Mageo o the top o PJC at k

Bay

24 hrs

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SPORTS

Lady Tigers win title in OT; SSC has title slapped away

BY JOSEPH W. GEX II
Staff Writer

If one was looking for great high school basketball on Friday, February 16, they would have found two games worth any amount of money at the new state-of-the-art gymnasium on the campus of Oak Grove High School in Hattiesburg. The Bay High Lady Tigers tangled with the homesteading Lady Warriors of Oak Grove and the Rock-a-chaws of St. Stanislaus hooked up with the #1-ranked Picayune Maroon Tide for the respective Division 7 Class 4A titles.

Both games went to the wire between the four teams. The Lady Tigers of Bay High needed an overtime period to steal the title away from the number one-seeded Lady Warriors 75-70, while the St. Stanislaus Rock-a-chaws gave everything they had against the state's top ranked Maroon Tide only to have the title, literally, slapped away with :04 left and lose 56-54. It was the fifth consecutive trip for the Bay High Lady Tigers to the division championship game. SSC and Picayune squared off in the division championship game for the third consecutive year.

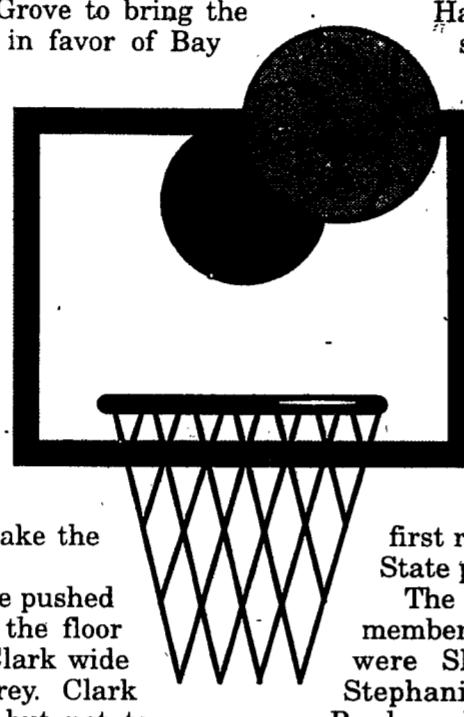
The Bay High Lady Tigers fell behind 6-0 early but battled back behind the play of Stephanie and Kendra Reed to claim a 17-14 advantage after the first period. The Reed sisters combined for nine of their team's 17 points in the opening period.

Shenna Ambrose lit the scoreboard up for 10 points in the second period to help Bay High maintain their lead and go into the break leading 32-28. However, the Lady Warriors were not about to be out to pasture.

The third period belonged to Oak Grove as Kim Winfrey, Lacy Branch, Lisa Clark, and Liz Palmer all contributed to help the Lady Warriors claim a 46-41 advantage going into the final stanza. Clark nailed a three-pointer with 3:07 left in the period to give Oak Grove a lead that they would not relinquish until the fourth period.

The Lady Tigers were led by Ambrose's 23 points followed by Stephanie Reed with 18 points. Carmen Labat and Kendra Reed each scored 10 points in the win. Oak Grove was led by Kim Winfrey's 24 points followed by Clark's 11 points.

The Lady Tigers destroyed the Pearl River Central Lady Blue Devils 87-29 in the first



Kendra Reed and Felicia Thomas each scored four points to key a Lady Tiger 8-2 run that gave Bay High the lead back with 6:23 left to play in regulation. Bay High increased their lead to as much as seven points in the fourth period; however, the pesky Lady Warriors didn't give up. With :08 left in regulation, Clark nailed a three-pointer for Oak Grove to bring the score 60-58 in favor of Bay

High. Shenna Ambrose went to the charity stripe after being fouled on the inbound pass. Ambrose made one of her two free throws to make the score 61-58.

Oak Grove pushed the ball up the floor and found Clark wide open for a trey. Clark hit nothing but net to tie the game at the buzzer 61-61.

Stephanie Reed took over for the Lady Tigers in the overtime period and scored eight points en route to the 75-70 victory. Reed stepped up to the challenge for Bay High as senior guard Shenna Ambrose was experiencing severe leg cramps.

Bay High head coach Debbie Triplett stated, "In overtime, the steals and free throws we made were the key to the game. Plus, a tremendous amount of heart and guts won us the title. Both teams played very hard tonight. It was an awesome championship game."

The Lady Tigers were led by Ambrose's 23 points followed by Stephanie Reed with 18 points. Carmen Labat and Kendra Reed each scored 10 points in the win. Oak Grove was led by Kim Winfrey's 24 points followed by Clark's 11 points.

The Lady Tigers destroyed the Pearl River Central Lady Blue Devils 87-29 in the first

round on Monday. On Thursday night, the Lady Tigers won a double overtime battle with their nemesis, the Hancock Lady Hawks, by the score of 66-62 to advance to the championship game.

The Lady Hawks of Hancock routed Columbia 94-35 to advance to the semi-finals against Bay High.

Hancock ends their season with a record of 19-13. The Bay High Lady Tigers have an overall record of 27-6 and will host the loser of the Crysata Springs/South Pike game on Monday, February 19, at the Tiger Dome in the first round of the South State playoffs.

The All-Division team members from Bay High were Shenna Ambrose, Stephanie Reed, Kendra Reed, and Carmen Labat. The Offensive Player of the Year was Kim Winfrey of Oak Grove.

The Defensive Player of the Year award was claimed by freshman Brooke Necaise of Hancock. The Most Valuable Player for Division 7 Class 4A in 2000-01 was Bay High's Shenna Ambrose.

The game between SSC and Picayune was a methodical one that went basket-for-basket.

The Rocks took the #1-ranked Maroon Tide to the wire only to have the title slapped from their hands at the buzzer 56-54. SSC senior guard Grady Willis rallied his troops around him as he led the charge against a Maroon Tide team that had defeated the Rocks twice during the season by four and eight points.

Grady Willis sank two treys in the first period for SSC before Picayune's Adrian Payton canned a three-pointer with 1:03 left in the period to tie the game at 9-9.

The second period was just as exciting with neither team tak-

ing more than a three-point lead. Willis opened the second period with a trey to put the Rocks up 12-9. And, Willis ended the first half of play sinking two free throws for SSC to tie the game at 22-22.

Lee Howard and Brandon Arcement got in on the three-point action for SSC in the third period. Howard pulled up and nailed a trey with 7:15 left in the third period to keep the tie at 25-25. Arcement hit consecutive three-pointers to give the Rocks a 33-28 lead with 3:49 left in the period. SSC got up by as much as six points in the third period; however, Picayune canned a trey at the buzzer to make the score 40-37 going into the final period.

Willis took charge for the Rocks in the final period canning 12 points including a steal and dunk with 3:50 left to play. Willis nailed a three-pointer, his sixth of the night, with :57 left to give the Rocks a 54-52 advantage.

Picayune's Jonathan Patton scored the game's final two buckets including the controversial game winner at the buzzer after the Picayune slap and steal.

In the game there were 20 three-pointers made between the two teams and 15 lead changes. Grady Willis led the Rocks with 26 points followed by Jason Santiago with 11 points. Jonathan Patton led all scorers with 29 points while Adrian Payton added 14 points for Picayune.

SSC head coach Jay Ladner commented, "It was another classic battle between Picayune and St. Stanislaus. It was a great atmosphere and the game could have gone either way. There is no shame in losing to Picayune. They are a great team. We played a patient game because Picayune forces you to play that way with their defense. It was great battle between the two teams. It is one that nobody deserves to lose."

SSC advanced to the championship game by defeating the Petal Panthers 62-54 in the first round. The Rocks disposed of

the Columbia Wildcats in the semi-finals 65-35 on Thursday night. The Maroon Tide wiped out Bay High in the first round 70-40 before running into a vicious Hancock Hawk squad.

The Hawks won their first division game in over 12 years when they defeated the home-standing Oak Grove Warriors 71-65. Zach Nelson scored 23 points to lead the way for the Hawks against the Warriors. Jason Phillips scored 17 points followed by Cody Ladner and Kael Peterson with 15 and 11 points, respectively.

Picayune defeated the Hawks in the semi-finals 56-42 to advance to the championship game. Hancock finished the season with a record of 13-20. The final tally was an eight-game improvement over last year's record.

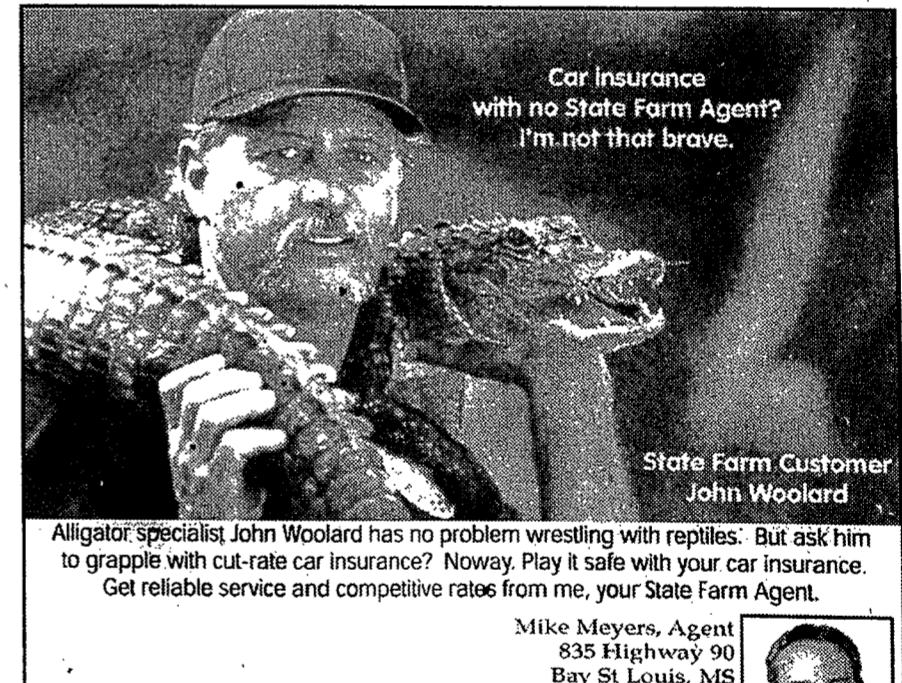
The Rocks will take a 24-10

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Bay High Tennis Schedule

March		
1 Hancock	Away	4:00
5 Petal	Away	5:00
6 Picayune	Home	4:00
13 Pass Christian	Away	4:00
15 Long Beach	Away	4:00
19 Mercy Cross	Home	4:30
22 Resurrection	Home	4:00
27 St. Stanislaus	Away	4:00
29 Picayune	Away	4:30
April		
3 Hancock	Home	4:00
5 Oak Grove	Home	5:00
19 District	Diamondhead	
April 30, May 1	State Tournament in Jackson	

Pass Ladies Golf results

Pass Christian Isles Ladies Golf Association Feb. 13 Front Nine, 1/2 Handicap winners include:

First Flight: first, Debbie Wolf
Second Flight: first, Perk Landry; second, Joan Anderson
Third Flight: first, Doris Roofner; second, Helen Farrelly
Nine holes low net: first, Susie Michael; and second Claire Loup

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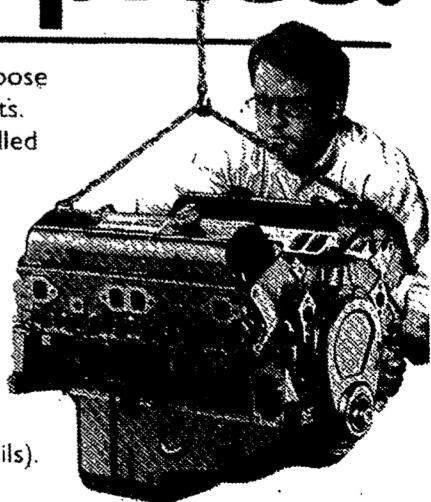
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Obituaries

BARBARA ANN CHILDS FLORINE MCCLEELAND MILDRED SHEA

BARBARA ANN CHILDS

Barbara Ann Childs, 63, of Bay St. Louis, died Friday, Feb. 16, 2001 in Bay St. Louis.

Mrs. Childs was a native of Biloxi. She was of the Baptist faith and a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Bay St. Louis.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William Joseph and Pearl nee Kinnerson; brothers Benny, Wayne and William Joseph Kinnerson Jr.; and a sister, Betty Simmons.

Survivors include her husband, Luther David Childs Sr.; three sons, Luther David Childs Jr. of McColl, James William Childs of Jackson, and Allan Roger Childs of McColl; three daughters, Kathy Childs Davide of Baton Rouge, Nacy Childs Ainsworth of Fairview, N.C. and Connie Lynn Reagan of Magnolia; brother J.C.

Kennerson of Grand Bay, Al.; 21 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

A visitation will be held today, Sunday, Feb. 18, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis.

A prayer service will be held at 10 a.m. Monday at the funeral home chapel. A graveside service will be held Monday at 2 p.m. at the Magnolia Cemetery in Magnolia, Ms.

FLORINE MCCLEELAND

Mrs. Florine McCleland, 78, of Pass Christian, died Thursday, Feb. 15, 2001, in Bay St. Louis.

Arrangements are incomplete at Riemann Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis.

MILDRED SHEA

Mildred Shea, 89, of Pass Christian, died Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2001, in Gulfport.

Services are pending at Riemann Funeral Home, 25th Avenue, Gulfport.

MPT -- \$2.9M govt. contract

Continued from Page 1A

Under the Air Force contract, MPT will develop a new, high-performance structure foam material based on its Parmax, Self Reinforced Polymer (SRP) technology.

He explained, "Structural foams are used in sandwich-type structural components with a foam core and a composite or metal external skin. Such foam-core sandwich structures are low in weight, but high in strength, making it valuable in weight-sensitive aerospace and military applications."

MPT's Parmax SRP structural foams will offer high-shear strength coupled with superior damage tolerance," Dr. Gagne said. "In contrast to other structural foams, Parmax SRP

foams are not susceptible to weight gain or damage from moisture."

The unique foam materials are expected to find use in both military and commercial aircraft, for wings and internal aircraft structures, Dr. Gagne said. "And, it will be used in boats, land-based structures and specialty industrial applications."

Under the National Science Foundation grant, MPT will develop and test new Parmax powdered resins in rapid prototyping applications.

"Rapid prototyping technology is a method for quickly fabricating a prototype of a proposed new product," Dr. Gagne explained.

"Typically, a laser is focused onto powdered materials, causing the particles to fuse into a solid form. Computer control of the laser permits intricate structures to be built up, layer-by-layer, into final prototype, obviating the needs for costly machining and assembly."

Dr. Gagne said the NSF's Small Business Innovation Research Program is designed to support the development of novel technology by small companies.

"Phase I awardees, like MPT, are also entitled to compete for subsequent Phase II contracts, which, if awarded, can be considerably larger in amount," he added.

The Air Force contract was the second major government contract landed by the fledgling company since locating at Port Bienville last October.

Last December, MPT received a \$1.1 million R&D contract from the U.S. Army for advanced development of its Parmax product.

MPT, which employs a staff of nine engineers, chemists, polymer scientists and support personnel, is now working out of temporary offices in the David McDonald Training Center at Port Bienville.

Aided by a \$1.5 million state loan, MPT will move into a new state-of-the-art facility currently being constructed at Port Bienville.

Jerry Hemphill, the Port and Harbor Commission's Programs Manager, hailed the announcement of the two contracts.

"That's exactly what we hoped would happen," said Hemphill.

P&H Executive director Hal Walters and Hemphill went to bat for MPT to help it relocate its headquarters here from California, and convinced the Board of Supervisors to approve a state bond issue for MPT's building.

Dr. Gagne said MPT plans to employ about 50 more people when product sales begin.

Soldier

Continued from Page 1A

"Michael also broke the 5th vertebrae in his neck ... but the doctors say that although neurological tests show some weakness on his left side, physically he shows no signs of paralysis ... and he seems to be as alert as can be expected on the pain killers ... as soon as he woke up from surgery they had them get me on the phone."

Baldwin said Michael calls her daily and that the family hopes to fly over to see him, hopefully this week. "But the army will only pay for his dad and I to fly over, so we're trying to find a way for other family members to make the trip."

"I've never been to Hawaii before and I'm sorry that it has to be for a reason like this," said Baldwin, who said she is scared of flying.

Baldwin said her son Michael had planned to make the army his career. "The surgeon told us that these injuries shouldn't affect his career but that he (Michael) would never be able to play football or anything like that, so what does that mean ... we won't really know how he is until we see him."

One consolation to Baldwin is that Michael's cousin Ryan Newbury, also from Hancock County, is serving in the Navy in the same area and was able to be at the hospital through the surgery and make visits.

cott of Louisiana products if the proposal is not accepted. Some anglers are already refusing to buy Louisiana spring water.

"I am ready to do something if they do not," said Gollott. "I am upset that they are doing this to my people on the Mississippi Gulf Coast."

Hewes said the licensing fees

"The helicopter pilot came to visit him and so have other men in his unit," said Baldwin.

Michael had been in the service since the Fall of 1999 and went through basic training at Ft. Benning, Georgia. Baldwin said her son told her that this was a routine training mission which involved about 30 helicopters and 1,000 servicemen.

"He said the weather was really bad, that it was dark and raining," said Baldwin. "He said that the doors to the helicopter were open and he could see the other helicopter getting closer ... he thinks the rotor blades hit one another, and they fell, about 300 feet." There is also some speculation by Sgt. 1st Class Leslie E. Frye II that what hit the rotor blades was a Humvee that was suspended from the other helicopter. Neither version has been confirmed by the army and the crash is still under investigation.

Baldwin said the terrain was so rough that the injured had to be carried out in Humvees to a place where a helicopter could land to fly them to the hospital. "He wants to come home but we feel that he will probably be kept at Tripler for therapy," said Baldwin. Of the eleven injured men, all of them from the same helicopter, four remain hospitalized and are listed in stable condition.

are damaging the economies of both states.

"It has become nearly unaffordable to hunt or fish, and we need to do something about it. Our department has shown we are willing to do some work to end this. Now, it's up to them. This really is a win-win situation for both sides," said Hewes.

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Bill offers truce in sport licensing war

BY ED LEPOMA

Staff Writer

Mississippi legislators are hoping to end feud over fishing and hunting fees that has been waging for eight months between Louisiana and Mississippi.

Last week, Sen. Lynn Posey of Union Church, who chairs the Senate Wildlife and Fisheries Committee, offered a five-step proposal he hopes will bring a truce.

His legislation is being supported by powerful coast Sens. Tommy Gollott of Biloxi and Billy Hewes of Gulfport.

Louisiana had raised out-of-state fishing fees to what some considered "outrageous" levels in order to offset a \$9 million cut in the Wildlife and Fisheries budget.

Non-resident fees for saltwater fishing were raised 64 percent to \$110 annually or fishermen could get a three-day license for \$70, up 160 percent from the previous \$27 fee. The fees charter boats pay to have their parties fish in Louisiana waters was also raised significantly.

In retaliation, Mississippi raised its out-of-state non-resident hunting fee to \$425.

Posey's proposal would:

- Ask Louisiana to reduce its

non-resident annual saltwater fishing fee from \$110 to an appropriate level.

- Ask Louisiana to reduce its three-day non-resident saltwater fishing license from \$70 to \$55.

- Ask Louisiana to create a one-day saltwater fishing license.

- Ask Louisiana to Chandeleur Islands and using small skiffs to get a \$5 trip license instead of a three-day \$70 license.

- Propose the formation of the Chandeleur Conservation Compact between Mississippi and Louisiana in order to match federal funds needed to enhance conservation activities in the island chain.

- Mississippi would agree to reduce its annual all-game Louisiana non-resident hunting license from \$425 to an appropriate level.

"We hope this will get them to the table," said Posey. "The bottom line is: It should not be a burden on anyone in these two states to hunt or fish. We, the Legislature, have that responsibility."

Gollott said he hopes the Louisiana Legislature will accept the truce and end the licensing war before it gets out of control.

He mentioned an all-out boy-

In Memoriam
In Loving Memory of Charlotte Frederick-Jourbert FEB. 16, 1962 - JAN. 26, 2000

In memory of our mother, daughter, sister and friend Charlotte Frederick-Jourbert who got her wings on January 26, 2000. There is a bridge of memory, From here to Heaven above, That keeps you very close to us, It's called the bridge of love. As time goes by without you, And days turn into years, They hold a million memories, And a thousand silent tears. To us you were so special, What more is there to say, Except to wish with all our hearts, That you were here today.

Lovingly remembered by her daughter, mother, father, sister, brothers, and friends Carl and Sharon.

In Memoriam
In Loving Memory of MARIA YETTA FEB. 18, 1962 - JAN. 12, 1986

Child of my soul, babe of my heart, A curtain of night time keeps us apart. God loaned you to me, but just for a while, If I close my eyes, I can still see you smile. God blessed me with a little girl to hold, But He never whispered, "she'll never grow old". You had a spirit so special and strong, This Earth couldn't hold you... angels never stay long. The pain that I'm feeling of sorrow and grief, Will pass away quickly in a time oh so brief. There's a light that will show me to heaven's gates, Where an angel named Maria patiently waits.

Loved and missed by, Mom, Bother, Sister, and Family



Thank You
The family of Clarence Schindler would like to express their sincere gratitude to Dr. Irene Koskan, Dr. Aziz and nurses Beth and Sharon, the D and C wing staff and office staff at Miramar Nursing Home, Hospice, Father Theriault, Father Fannon, Father Jack, and Edmond Fahey. They provided individualized care that showed their dedication to him. Words cannot express our heartfelt thanks for their devotion to our father and husband.

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We would also like to thank the many friends and family members who sent cards, prayers, flowers and food during this time.

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The Sea Coast Echo

BUSINESS NEWS

Ingalls gets contract to repair USS Cole

The U.S. Navy has awarded a not-to-exceed \$105,511,641 cost-plus-award fee letter contract modification to Litton Ingalls Shipbuilding, Inc., of Pascagoula, for the repair and restoration of USS Cole, which was damaged in a terrorist attack while in the port of Aden, Yemen Oct. 12, 2000. The vessel was constructed at the shipyard.

Work is expected to be completed by February 2002. On Nov. 9, the Navy announced

that Litton Ingalls Shipbuilding would repair the USS Cole.

As the building yard of USS Cole, Litton Ingalls can provide the current design, planning, fabrication and production procedures for restoration of the ship.

Additionally, the Navy believes the work can be performed within the existing workforce, and will have minimal impact to Litton Ingalls' new construction production schedule.

Library promotes, adds new employees

The Hancock County Library System recently announced two promotions, two transfers and a new employee.

Sue Prendergast has assumed the position of Reference Desk manager at the Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library.

She holds a bachelor of arts degree in education from the University of Southern Mississippi and has been employed with the library system since 1998.

Sandi Stone was promoted to the position of Customer Service Desk manager at the Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library. Her duties include assisting in managing the customer service desk, training new staff, maintaining patron records and carrying out special projects. Stone has 10 years in retail office management and has been with the library system since 1999.

Patricia Rigney and Joel Bullock have assumed the positions of information services assistants in the Reference Department at the Bay St. Louis-Hancock County.

The department assists library users in finding information either in person or over the telephone. More than 18,000 reference transactions were handled by the Reference Department last year.

Rigney, who holds a bachelor of arts degree from William Carey College, replaces Kathy Martinolich. Martinolich, who holds a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Southern



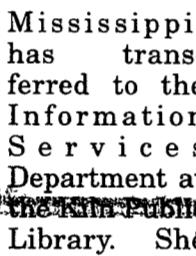
Stone

Prendergast



Rigney

Bullock



Martinolich

Stone

Peoples earns high rating

Bauerfinancial Reports, Inc., the nation's leading bank analyst, has presented The Peoples Bank with its 43rd consecutive five-star rating and an Exceptional Performance Award for exemplary financial strength and performance in the most recent and previous 42 reporting periods.

"The Peoples Bank represents the best in community banking," said Paul A. Bauer, founder of the research firm.

"While Internet banks and faceless cyber-representatives compete for a share of the market, it's comforting to know there are still community banks, like The Peoples Bank, where people come first. The Peoples Bank has a superb

track record and is poised to greet the challenges of the future without sacrificing those fundamental values. That's our kind of bank," concluded Bauer.

Established in 1896, The Peoples Bank faithfully serves those who live and/or work on Mississippi's Gulf Coast through its 15 offices in Bay St. Louis, Biloxi, Gulfport, Hindsboro, Harrison County, Long Beach, Ocean Springs, Pass Christian, Saucier and Wiggins.

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FINANCIAL FOCUS

Submitted by
Craig Foster
Edward Jones Co.

What to do when bad news hits your stocks

You open the newspaper and see the article — a company in which you own stock has produced a defective product.

Consumers are alarmed. The government is investigating. It's an investor's worst nightmare. Or is it?

Product difficulties are only one of the factors that can affect a company's stock performance.

Accounting irregularities, litigation, management changes and other events also can take a toll on a firm's stock price.

As a concerned investor, what should you do when bad news strikes your stocks? Here's the first thing to remember: Don't panic.

Don't make hasty decisions based on today's headlines. There are at least two good reasons why you shouldn't rush to sell your beleaguered stocks.

First, if the media have been spotlighting a company's bad news, it's likely that the stock price isn't just down — it may be way down.

And as you'll recall, the basic rule of investing is to "buy low and sell high." If it's at all possible, you'll usually want to avoid selling a stock when its price is low.

The second reason you shouldn't immediately sell a stock hit by bad news is that the reason for the downturn may be transitory. A defective product can be remedied, or even removed from the market.

A change in management could turn out to be for the better. Litigation could end favorably. In other words, once the ailment is remedied, the stock could regain its health — meaning the price could bounce back.

That's why it's essential that you look beyond a stock's short-

term woes. It may be hard to ignore the commotion surrounding a dose of bad publicity, but you must do just that if you're investing for the long term.

Your investment representative can help you evaluate your stock's long-term prospects. Are its financial

fundamentals still basically sound? Does it have a line of products that, in general, enjoys a competitive advantage within its industry? Is it in a business that's poised for significant growth?

If you can answer "yes" to these questions, then you'll most likely want to maintain your long-term, buy-and-hold outlook.

In fact, you may want to use the downturn as an opportunity to buy more shares.

To put yourself in a position

in which you can turn bad news to your advantage, however, don't pin all your hopes on any one stock.

You should have other holdings to fall back on while the temporarily troubled stock has time to recover. That means you need to maintain a diversified portfolio — one that contains a good mix of stocks, bonds, government securities and "cash" instruments, such as money market funds.

Diversification provides you with a variety of growth and income opportunities, while helping you "dilute" the effects that bad news can have on a single stock.

Armed with a long-term perspective and a diversified portfolio, you'll be prepared if trouble comes visiting one of your stocks. And, as is the case in all walks of life, preparation is a cornerstone of success.

Public Service Commissioner to speak to D'head group

The next general meeting of the Diamondhead Business and Professional Association will be Thursday, Feb. 22, 8-9 a.m. at the Diamondhead Country Club. Guest speaker will be Michael Callahan, Public Service Commissioner of the Mississippi Southern District.

He attended the University of Southern Mississippi on a football scholarship and played the position of lineman. Callahan graduated from USM with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and went on to Mississippi College School of Law in Jackson, where he received a doctorate of juris prudence.

He was a criminal investigator and assistant district attorney for the Twelfth Judicial District in Hattiesburg and now has his own law practice, Hall & Callahan.

Since being elected, Callahan has actively taken part in two regulatory organizations, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, where he serves on the Electricity Committee, and the Southern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.

Business After Hours will be

hosted by Hancock Bank, Diamondhead branch Thursday, Feb. 22, 5-7 p.m.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS include 3 SICK DAYS, 2 PERSONAL DAYS, and RETIREMENT. THE DISTRICT PAYS EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE.

Optional dental insurance is available at employee's expense.

For those interested in applying, call (228) 255-7141.

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Bus driver beginning salary is \$5804.33. Bus drivers work 182 days (9 1/2 months) each school year. Hours are approximately 6:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. each morning and 2:20 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. each afternoon.

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COMPANY/SYMBOL	LAST PRICE	WEEKLY CHANGE
ALCAN ALUM/AL	37.92	- .33
AT & T/T	21.69	- .41
AUTOZONE INC/AZ0	25.85	+ 1.08
BELLSOUTH/BLS	41.90	- .95
BOEING/BA	59.99	+ 2.65
CALGON CARBON/C/C	6.75	- .35
CHEVRON CORP/CHV	86.55	+ .66
COCA COLA/KO	59.36	- .78
CSX CORP/CSX	31.79	+ .98
DUPONT/DD	43.20	+ 1.21
FRIEDE GOLDMAN HALTER, INC	5.39	- .62
GENERAL ELEC/GE	47.00	+ 1.34
GOODYEAR TIRE/GT	25.00	+ 1.04
HANCOCK HOLDING CO/HBHC	37.46	+ .43
INTL BUSINESS MACHINE/IBM	115.00	+ 2.68
INTL PAPER CO/IP	36.76	+ .16
K MART CORP/KM	8.88	+ .46
LOCKHEED MARTIN/LMT	36.25	+ .12
PARK PLACE ENT/PPE	11.00	- .47
PEOPLES FINANCIAL/PFBX	14.87	- .87
MCDONALDS CORP/MCD</		

MARDI GRAS LANDIERS



King Nereus XXXV, Charles R. Oliver, Sr.

Nereids parade to roll today

As the Krewe of Nereids parade rolls today at 1 p.m., Queen Doris XXXV will share her reign over the royal court with King Nereus XXXV, Charles Rayburn Oliver, Sr.

Oliver is a lifelong resident of Bay St. Louis and has been involved with the Krewe of Nereids for over 15 years.

Married to Rhonda J. Oliver, he is the proud father of three children, Charles Jr., Jennifer and Ryan. In addition to his busy family life, this year's king has been the owner of Jenco Builders for 20 years.

Oliver has also been involved with various organizations in the community. He has been a member of the local Jaycees, in which he has served as vice-president and president. He has also participated in several

fund-raising activities for organizations such as St. Clare Church and St. Clare School and Our Lady of the Gulf Church.

Oliver has supported local athletic activities, such as sponsoring the BAYS soccer program for 20 years.

When asked about his reign as the King of Nereids, Oliver said, "Being king is one of the special rewards of Nereids. Other rewards include working with a group of talented men and women who have the goal to help the women of Nereids have a great ball and parade to present to the community."

Oliver had a special thank you to the captain of Nereids for her tireless efforts of dedication to the krewe and the community.



Duke Mark Breland



Duke Walter G. Billups



Page Alexandra Whitfield



Page Alyssa Pagano



Duke Ronald J. Artigues, Jr.



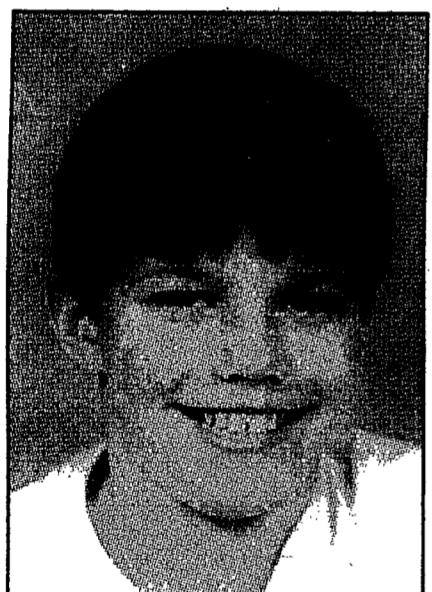
Duke Lloyd N. Nicaud



Duke Vincent R. Altese, Jr.



Duke Herbert Dubuisson



Page S. Tyler Turcotte



Page Samantha Bradford

SCOWI royalty announced

C. A. "Jack" Doyle, who reigned as King SCOWI at its ball Saturday, Feb. 17, is a retired Sgt. Major E9 of the United States Army.

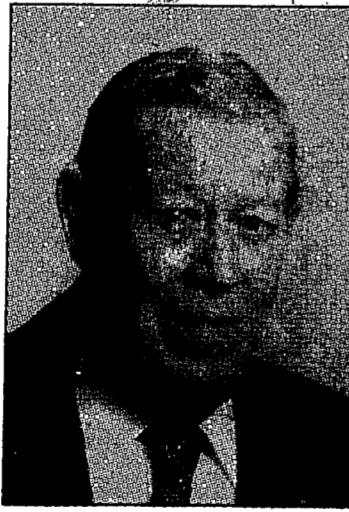
He is an active member of American Legion Post 77 and has served as its commander as well as Southern Area vice-commander. He is also a member of VFW Post 3253.

Doyle's wife is Patricia, and he is the father of Douglas Doyle and Debbie Doyle Labell; stepfather of Melanie L. Hardouin and grandfather of Christopher and Michael Labell and David Doyle.

Since his retirement in 1964 he has been a resident of Waveland. He and his wife enjoy traveling the United States in their RV.

The 2001 Queen of SCOWI is Frances Lucas. Lucas is a longtime resident of Waveland. She and her husband, Robert "Bob" Lucas, who is now deceased, had moved to Waveland from Ontario, Canada in 1959. Lucas and her family have been very active in many community organizations over the years. She was a charter member of the Krewe of Nereids and very active in Scouting and community fund raisers.

Lucas reared five daughters, Debra Mason and Patricia Callahan of Waveland, Kimberly Uram and Cynthia Taconi of Bay St. Louis, and Tracy Clay of San Antonio, Texas. She has 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren and enjoys traveling, reading, cooking and spending time with her family.



King of SCOWI



Queen of SCOWI

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February 19 - 23

when you earn 250 points or play an average bet of \$25 for 3 hours (or equivalent) on table games.

Points/play must be earned within a 24-hour period (Midnight - Midnight). While supplies last. One per account.

King Cakes are also available for purchase at our all-new Café Magic & Bakery.

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COMMUNITY

Back In Time



1985: Workers donate funds for medical center drive

SIXTEEN-YEARS AGO
December 29, 1985 — Paved streets are among the first items on the agenda for the City of Waveland in 1986. Also included are a new police station, beach improvements, extensions of the city's water and sewerage system, redistricting and a city election.

"The biggest plans we have for the coming year concern touching up our streets and paving some that have never been paved," said Mayor John Longo Jr.

"Our goal is to have every street in the city paved." "We hope to finish during the first quarter of 1986. We're planning to spend about \$200,000," he added.

Employees of Hancock General Hospital have pledged a total of \$40,020 toward the Hancock Medical Center Development Campaign.

Employees were asked to pledge a certain amount of their paycheck for the next three years with a goal of \$35,000. (Photo) The chairmen of the various department divisions are, Carol Lewando, Charlotte Mauffray, Sissie Schindler, Luann Favre, Virginia Kenny and Jeanie Moran.

TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO

December 28, 1980 — Honoring American Hostages. Four and fifth grade social studies classes at North Bay Elementary School in Bay St. Louis recently honored 55 American hostages being held by student militants in Iran by tying a large yellow ribbon around a tree in their yard.

The American hostages have been held by Iran for over one year. Social studies teacher Joyce Warner said the ribbon will remain on the tree until the hostages are freed.

TIME—PAGE 4B

THE MURAL OF THE STORY ...



Top: Pass Christian fireman David Slatten, 29, is a self-taught graphic artist. Above: A mural Slatten painted on a wall of the Pass Christian Fire Department at Second Street.

Pass fireman leaves impression on town

BY ED LEPOMA
Staff Writer

David Slatten is leaving his imprint on Pass Christian.

The 29-year-old fireman and para-medic has drawn praise and raves from Fire Chief Rich Marvil and fellow firemen for his art work emblazoned on the walls of Fire Department headquarters on Second Street and on department trucks and other equipment.

Slatten, one of five lieutenants on the 18-member firefighting force, is a self-taught graphic artist. He joined the Pass Christian Fire Department in October of 1997. He works a shift that requires him to be on duty 24 hours, then off for two days.

Waiting around for a fire or another kind of emergency can get pretty monotonous on a 24-hour stretch, so Slatten took it upon himself to dress up the east wall of headquarters in the area where officers drink coffee, eat, relax and watch television. Slatten drew a map of city streets, then a replica of a fire truck. Then, he turned to painting insignias on the chief's car, the rescue unit, his helmet and the department manual. He's been invited to paint a mural on the bus used by senior citizens.

"Sketching kind of came naturally for me. Then, I got into air-brushing," said Slatten, who once painted graphics for a

IMPRESSION—PAGE 4B

Some remarks on some friends, Part 2: Heron

With the coming of the casinos, crime is occurring on a more routine basis than in years past and the Waveland police force has had to expand. Gone are the days when a police officer would come by the house, sit down, and, declining Stella's offer of some iced sun tea and pound cake, carefully explain to us that there was a problem. Gretal and Heron had run by and scared some old ladies from New Orleans.

"But, Danny," I explained. "I was with the dogs! They weren't running alone! I was driving up and down the side road letting them run alongside the car. That's the way I exercise them. I've been doing that for years. Gretal and Lillie don't run too fast; so I'm really not going all that fast. Hell, that's

breaking even.

We have only one Weimaraner now, Jennie, but back then we had three. Now it seems impossible to believe that at one time we had three dogs weighing between 75 and 100 pounds in the house. I guess it's a little like having babies that grow up to be teenagers that are taller than you, it happens and you don't notice it.

Having Gretal, Heron and Lillie was fun though. Gretal was a large, no-nonsense dog. Heron, on the other hand, while extremely pretty with a silver fawn coat and incredibly long eyelashes, was a little strange. I would say she was calibrated a hair left of center. Stella would say that she just wasn't always with us. I'll talk about Lillie in another column.

Gretal was our first Weimaraner and when we got her, we decided to breed her

When the first litter of puppies (with Heron among them) came, we put them in a big welcome box. As they grew larger, we would put them on the front porch to exercise them. I would put them at one end of our 12-foot wide, 55-foot long porch and run to the other end with their food. They would chase after me, thus getting the exercise that I wanted them to have before they ate.

Invariably in their run down the long, wide porch, Heron would begin to drift to one side and before making it three quarters of the way, sometimes even before then, she would fall off the porch. When we picked her up, she would always look at us in her dainty fashion, completely confused as to what had happened.

As Heron became an adult, she and Gretal would go out with me on Herb's pier to check

our crab pots. I would pull the pots up and stick in bait and sort the catch for keepers and discards. Gretel would jump off the pier to catch the discards I threw back in the water. When she caught one, she'd bite down hard, cracking open its shell before it could nip her with its claws. Then she would take the whole crab back to the beach and eat it, shell and all. I've seen her go after one on the sand and do the same thing. She never seemed to get nipped nor develop a tummy ache from the shells.

As time went by, the pier deteriorated and planks were lost to storms. Gradually, the gaps between the planks you

Views From a Front Porch

by Paul Estronza La Violette
laviolet@mail.datasync.com

could walk on became bigger and bigger. Gretel with her weight was no greyhound, and when the missing planks left spaces more than four or five feet across, she wisely quit the pier and waded and swam alongside as Heron and I worked our way on top. Heron would continue to leap the spaces while I would jump the smaller spaces or walk on the beams; the buckets I was carrying providing me balance.

As the storms came and went, the gaps grew wider. Heron kept on coming out with me, leaping across these increasing distances. She would

VIEWS—PAGE 4B

What's for lunch?

FEBRUARY 19-23

Bay St. Louis
Waveland
School District
Chef Salad, Milk
and Condiments
served daily
BREAKFAST

Monday: Glazed Donut,
Assorted Cereal, Toast, Fruit
Juice

Tuesday: Sausage and
Biscuit, Assorted Cereal, Toast,
Fruit Juice

Wednesday: French Toast
Sticks, Assorted Cereal, Toast,
Fruit Juice

Thursday: Sausage and
Biscuit, Assorted Cereal, Toast,
Fruit Juice

Friday: Breakfast Pizza,
Assorted Cereal, Toast, Juice
LUNCH

Monday: Franks and Gravy,
Ham and Cheese Sandwich
with Trimmings, Whole Kernel
Corn, Whipped Potatoes, Fresh
Apple, Peach Slices, Yeast Roll

Tuesday: Pepperoni Pizza,
Roast Beef Poboy with
Trimmings, Parsled New
Potatoes, Cheesy Broccoli,
Pineapple Tidbits, Fresh
Banana, Butter Cookie

Wednesday: Chicken
Gumbo with Rice, Corn Dog
Nuggets, Potato Salad, Mixed
Vegetables, Fresh Fruit Bowl,
Frozen Fruit Juice Bar, Peanut
Butter Chews, Crackers

Thursday: Taco Salad, BBQ
Rib Sandwich, Cream-style
Corn, Cheesy Broccoli and
Cauliflower, Fresh Fruit Bowl,
Chilled Pears

Friday: Lasagna,
Hamburger with Trimmings,
Spicy Fries, Buttered Peas,
Fresh Fruit Bowl, Tropical
Fruit Mix, Yellow Cake with
Icing, Yeast Roll

Hancock
North Central
Gulfview
Charles B. Murphy
and East Hancock
Elementary Schools
Served daily:
Bread, Dessert, Milk
and Condiments
BREAKFAST

Monday: Breakfast Pizza,
Juice

Tuesday: Sausage Biscuit,
Juice

Wednesday: Flapstick

Thursday: Cheese Toast,
Juice

Friday: Chicken Pattie
Biscuit, Juice

LUNCH

Monday: Cheesy Chicken
over Rice, Cheeseburger, Oven
Fries, Steamed Broccoli, Raw
Veggies, Peaches, Fruit Juice,
Yeast Rolls, Pudding

Tuesday: Red Beans and
Rice with Sausage, Sliced
Turkey on Bun with Gravy,
Chef Salad, Ranch Baked Fries,
Cheesy Calif. Veggies, Tossed
Salad, Fruit Cocktail, Fruit
Juice, Cornbread, Crackers,
Gelatin

Wednesday: Chicken
Gumbo, Meatball Sandwich,
Broccoli Salad, Whole Kernel
Corn, Potato Salad, Chilled
Pears, Fruit Juice, Yeast Roll,
Fruit Crisp

Thursday: Pot Roast with
Gravy, BBQ Sandwich, Chef
Salad, Whipped Potatoes,
Green Beans, Tossed Salad,
Sliced Apples, Fruit Juice,
Biscuit, Crackers, Pudding.

Friday: Salisbury Steak,
Texas Grilled Cheese, Spicy
Fries, Baked Beans, Coleslaw,
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Roll, Oatmeal-Raisin Cookie

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Steamed Broccoli, Tossed
Salad, Peach Slices, Fruit Juice,
Yeast Rolls, Pudding

Tuesday: Red Beans and
Rice with Sausage, Hot Roast
on Bun with Gravy, Chef Salad,
Ranch Baked Fries, Cheesy
Calif. Veggies, Tossed Salad,
Fruit Cocktail, Fruit Juice,
Cornbread, Crackers, Gelatin

Wednesday: Chicken
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Weddings



Schaul-Thriffiley to wed Feb. 26 at Our Lady of the Gulf

The Honorable and Mrs. Robert Francis Schaul of Ringoes, N.J. announce the engagement of their daughter, Phoebe Frances Schaul, to Todd Nathan Thriffiley, son of Mr. and Mrs. James C. Thriffiley III, all of Bay St. Louis.

The bride-elect is a 1991 graduate of The Macduffie School and a 1997 graduate of Syracuse University College of Nursing. She is a member of Alpha Phi sorority.

She is serving in the Air Force as a first lieutenant and is employed at Keesler Medical Center Ward 3A in Biloxi.

Her grandparents are Dorothy T. Griffin of Marco Island, Fla., and the late Honorable Bryant Griffin and

vows will be exchanged Feb. 26, 2001, at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church in Bay St. Louis.

Time

- Bay St. Louis Mayor Larry Bennett said Friday, "I would like to see Bay St. Louis go through with the application for a Farmers Home Loan (FmHA), as the most important thing for 1981."

"The FmHA loan and grant, if approved, would enable Bay St. Louis to extend water and sewerage to all of our residents. This is something we really need," Bennett added.

The Bay Mayor continued, "By having water and sewer lines extended to all area including the annexed sections of Bay St. Louis, a commitment made to the people by leaders of Bay St. Louis years ago would be kept."

FORTY-ONE YEARS AGO
December 29, 1960 - Masked quartet hijacks Stieffel beverage cargo. Approximately \$2,200 in cash in addition to the \$2,700 in whiskey shipment was stolen in the Dec. 25, hijacking of a Stieffel Bros. panel truck, near Kiln, it was disclosed today by Bert Stieffel, proprietor of the company.

The State Tax Collector's office and a private investigator have entered into the probe of the hijacking. Sheriff Gerald V. Price, Sr. announced. The shipment of liquor was

taken from a truck owned by Stieffel Bros., wholesale liquor dealers in Waveland. Stieffel said the truck was halted on State Highway 603 near Kiln by four armed, masked men riding in a late model car, one having a siren and hand-operated red light.

Stieffel's uncle, A.J. Stieffel, was driving the truck accompanied by Donald Dorn, a company employee. The men were tied, pillow cases pulled over their heads, and they were left by the roadside during freezing weather. Searchers found the light panel truck the same day about two miles east of the Sellers community.

FORTY-EIGHT YEARS AGO

December 25, 1953 - Santa Claus made his appearance at the annual Christmas party at the R.W. Taylor-School in Bay St. Louis last week. Santa appeared while the children were singing Jingle Bells. He gave out toys and fruit to the each of the kids.

The annual program was sponsored by the Mother's Club and Mrs. Howze. Members present were Mesdames Warren Carver, Fred Dahl, Marcus Gowen, Edward Kimmel, Ezelda Ling, Jewel Miller,

Harold Netto, Chester Schultz, and Warren Traub.

- Ben F. Hille Sr. was picked to head the St. Stanislaus Sideline Club at the annual banquet for the Rockachaw football team last week. A.C. Mitchell was chosen first vice-president and Bill Scarborough was chosen second vice-president.

SIXTY-ONE YEARS AGO
Streets of the City are publicly lighted for Holiday Season. Municipality turns on flood of lights in color.

Board of Mayor and City Commissioners with commendable enterprise publicly illuminated the streets of the City of Bay St. Louis for the Christmas holidays this year - the first time in history.

Not to be outdone by other Coast cities and with the spirit of the season strings along and over the streets were strung from the head of Ulman Avenue (Highway 90 at the intersection of the bridge), to the head of Washington Street.

At the head of Main Street the lines were crisscrossed, the same at Ulman Avenue and Union Streets. Mayor Blaize and Commissioners Bourgeois and Perkins naturally were proud of this achievement.

Impression

Continued from Page 1B

Slide sign company. He proudly admits one of his air-brush designs of a Harley Davidson on a T-shirt recently took fourth place in a national contest.

Slatten, who grew up in Fort Collins, Colo., comes to Pass Christian via the Navy and California. He did a four-year hitch as a quartermaster in the Navy, most of which took him to California and Japan.

He came to the Mississippi Coast six years ago when his mother decided to settle in Long Beach.

So, how did he decide to become a firefighter?

"It's just something I always

wanted to do," said Slatten. After gaining certification as a full-fledged fireman, Slatten went one step further. He is also a certified para-medic, working part-time for American Medical Response.

"I like having the opportunity to help people," said Slatten. "And, it's even more rewarding if I can save someone's life." He recalls fondly a note sent by a woman thanking him for saving her husband's life. "He really wasn't in that much danger. He was having trouble breathing, so I administered oxygen," said Slatten.

Although he loves firefight-

ing, Slatten has bigger goals. He married an Air Force brat named Penny four years ago and they have a three-and-a-half month-old son, Conner.

Slatten is now attending Jefferson Davis Community College where he's working toward a bachelor's degree, then he plans to apply for admission to the University of South Alabama in Mobile.

"After that, I want to apply to medical school," said Slatten.

Seeing the resolve on the young fireman's face, one has no doubt he'll achieve that goal and more.

Views

Continued from Page 1B

start at the pier's shore side with me and race ahead, leaping the open spaces until she reached the end platform, where she would wait for me.

But the storms eventually won.

When Stella and I walked toward the pier after one storm, we could see there were an unusual amount of missing planks. I tried to stop Heron, but she had already left us.

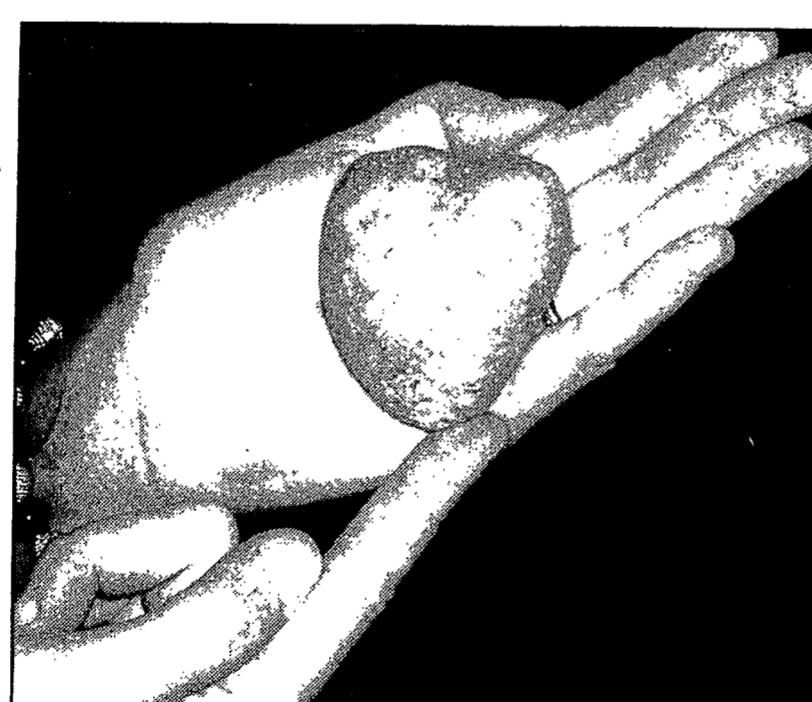
side and was racing to the pier. Her momentum carried her halfway down the length of the pier, each of her leaps covering unbelievable distances. She was beautiful to watch, touching down on two, sometimes only one plank and then leaping the next space on and on with a ballet grace.

Then there was a gap too wide for even her to vault and

she fell down with a hard splash into the water. We ran to help her. She seemed confused and Stella gave her a lot of "there, there's" and took her back to the house.

I stayed and went to where Gretel was barking at the end of the pier informing us that we were missing all the crabs.

Love Spud!



Peggy Lucia of Bay St. Louis got a special treat for Valentine's Day - a heart-shaped Idaho spud she found in a bag of red potatoes she purchased at a local grocery store.

Mardi Gras, Hot Diggity Dog to highlight story hours

"Mardi Gras" will be the theme for the children's story hour at the Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 10:30 a.m.

Gaston Goes to Mardi Gras is the book to be read during the program. Susan Daigre, program coordinator, will assist the children in making their own Mardi Gras mask.

"Hot Diggity Dog" will be the theme for the children's story hour at the Kiln Public Library on Thursday, Feb. 22, at 10:30 a.m.

Harry, the Dirty Dog, Chewey Louie and My Dog Talks are the books to be read during the program. Children will make their own Harry, the dirty dog puppets.

Weekly story hours are held September through May. Programs last approximately one half hour, depending upon subject matter and planned activity.

Programs and activities are designed for pre-school-age children three to five years old who are not part of a nursery or pre-school group.

For individual branch story hour information, contact Adrienne Bradley, Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library, 467-5282; or Sandra Ladner, Kiln Public Library, 255-1724.

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Continued from Page 1B

K-9 Funds



Echo staff photo by Ed Lepoma
The Waveland Civic Association recently donated \$6,555 to the Hancock County Sheriff's office for services of a K-9 dog. From left are: Deputy Thomas Powell, Jay Fountain, President of the Association, Sheriff Steve Garber, and Association treasurer David A. Garcia.

AARP to meet in Waveland at Post 77 Monday -- with dancers

The AARP meeting will be conducted at American Legion Post 77 Monday, Feb. 19 at 10 a.m.

The new officers for 2001 are Mary Gilmore, president; Mayola Rotherham, vice president; Gertrude Helwig, secretary; and Al Mahe, treasurer.

The Diamondhead Line Dancers will perform.

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BUSINESS review

Gulf Coast Mall, LLC



pictured: Harry Wheat, owner, Gulf Coast Mall, LLC

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We offer a full line of Mardi Gras dresses and now have a full line of promwear, lingerie and accessories. In addition to our exquisite bridal wear we offer lingerie for the undercover you and aromatherapy, mood music, and candles for the inner you. We will have our complete line of lingerie in before Valentines day so be sure to stop by and pick out something for that special someone. Again, we will feature specialty sizing in our lingerie line as well.

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Sycamore & Watts • Bay St. Louis • 466-4849Mt. Chapel Baptist
721 Herlihy St. • WavelandNew Hope Missionary Baptist
Whites Rd. • Pearlington • 533-7634Old Spanish Trail Baptist
5078 Hwy 90 W. • 466-0220Shifalo Baptist
16327 Hwy 603 • Kiln • 255-1118Shoreline Park Baptist
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14595 Vidalia Rd. • Pass Christian
255-7453 or 255-7560St. Ann Catholic
Clermont Harbor • Bay St. Louis • 467-4746
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REFLECTIONS ON LIFE

By Father Jerome LeDoux, SVD



Whom do you trust completely?

"Trust is not given; it is earned," goes the time-honored saying. If we value our freedom, our safety, our mental and physical health, our livelihood and our spiritual integrity, we have no choice but to show trust only to people who earn it by their attitudes, their values and their track record.

That leaves out a ton of people; in fact, by far most people. As Father Arthur Winters, S.V.D. was wont to say: "Don't take it personally. It's not that I don't trust you. I don't trust anybody."

We understand, of course, that he said that partly tongue in cheek. Still, by any measure his statement is biting, almost cynical. But, really, how many people are worthy of implicit, unconditional trust?

That kind of trust would mean, for instance, that I would be willing to delegate to some person(s) all I would think, say and do for my own benefit. In other words, if I were unconscious or otherwise incapacitated for a considerable period of time, I would not hesitate to entrust myself entirely to them.

It means my peace of mind would not be compromised at all if I gave such a person the keys to my house, to my car, to my safe, to my post office box, to my personal, most confidential files, and, finally, to my heart.

To say the least, such a trusted person is the rarest of birds. That said, however, we run into the strangest, most curious of human situations where we compromise our safety, integrity, freedom, health and almost everything else without a whimper of alarm, protest or evasive actions.

I refer to the sloth-based trust we put in others without inquiry, checkups or safety measures because we are too lazy, too apathetic or too complacent to monitor them. In other words, we deserve whatever we get whenever we take no time to ferret out problems and to protect ourselves.

Admittedly, we have to compromise sometimes, lest we worry ourselves to death about things we cannot control. There is a staggering number of situations which fall under this category. For instance, we put full faith and trust in restaurants, although we cannot be sure they are not poisoning us.

Short of poisoning us, we can hardly ever be sure some vicious, spiteful nerd is not contaminating the food with bodily or other noxious substances.

After all, the appearances of toxic or disgusting elements are

UM professor leads church members back to Mayberry

By Alicia Morris

In a time when people are rushing from one place to another with more things to do and less time to do them in, there seems to be a yearning to go back to the simpler form of life. It's a life where you have time to say, "hello," wave, or bake pies. It's a yearning to go back to Mayberry, according to University of Mobile professor Dr. Larry Turner.

Mayberry, the fictional setting of the 1960s Andy Griffith Show, is an idealistic small town with a sheriff who does not carry a weapon and a deputy who carries the bullet for his gun in his front shirt pocket. The show's memorable characters live a simple, happy life in their small town.

During a typical Sunday afternoon class, Dr. Turner or Bob Jenkins, member of First Baptist Church Chatom, who serves as assistant to Dr. Turner, plays an episode of the Andy Griffith Show.

After the video is completed, he begins a discussion about the moral implications in the episode. The participants offer their views and then Dr. Turner leads them through the scriptures that relate to these morals.

"I feel that it is important for a church to do this kind of a Bible study because it is a lesson in practical Christianity," Dr. Turner said.

Before presenting the idea to his pastor, Dr. Turner put a lot of thought into this idea. He was concerned that this type of study might be too secular, but felt assured after searching the scriptures.

"I realized that even Jesus taught in parables. When he was dealing with fishermen, he was talking about fishing. When he was talking with farmers, he was talking about planting seeds . . . he dealt with people where they were, and that's what this study does," said Dr. Turner.

The Mayberry Bible Study was developed in 1998 by Joey Fann of Twickenham Church of Christ in Huntsville, Ala. Fann, a long time-fan of the Andy Griffith Show, noticed that in each episode a moral lesson was implied. In some of the shows, the lesson went even deeper, to spiritual level.

"This show routinely portrays some of the basic principles and morals that we as Christians hold dear to our hearts. Values such as honesty, integrity, character, forgiveness and responsibility are presented in ways in which we can identify. The show is filled with the basic morals and Christian principles taught by the Scriptures," said Fann.

Fann believes that this study, which has spread across the U.S. and into Canada, is successful because the Andy Griffith Show is familiar and timeless.

"This study is new way to view old concepts, a novel way of looking at scripture. It provides a real casual but mind-catching atmosphere. One reason it does is because it's visual.

Being able to see situations on screen that match our own lives helps us to better relate biblical concepts.

People open up more in our discussion time than they normally would in a normal Bible study where they tend to be more reserved," said Fann.

Dr. Turner learned of this Bible study from his brother, Doug Turner, pastor of First Baptist Church Roanoke, who started the study at his church this past fall.

"I found this study on the Internet. I am a '60s child and have always liked the Mayberry stuff. So, I jumped at the idea," said Turner.

This different kind of Bible study has been a success at First Baptist Roanoke.

"In these classes, we have had good attendance and excitement about what we're doing. I think it

has worked so well because most of the people have seen the shows and relate to them, but also because it's just fun," said pastor Turner.

The success of the study at FBC Roanoke, led Dr. Larry Turner to pursue the study at his church.

Dr. Robert Kirkland, pastor of First Baptist Chatom, agreed with Dr. Turner about the idea.

"I was open to it. This kind of study is thought provoking. It brings biblical passages to life and brings traditional values into discussion using humor. It has definitely brought a greater interest towards the traditional values," said Kirkland.

During a typical Sunday afternoon class, Dr. Turner or Bob Jenkins, member of First Baptist Church Chatom, who serves as assistant to Dr. Turner, plays an episode of the Andy Griffith Show.

After the video is completed, he begins a discussion about the moral implications in the episode. The participants offer their views and then Dr. Turner leads them through the scriptures that relate to these morals.

"I feel that it is important for a church to do this kind of a Bible study because it is a lesson in practical Christianity," Dr. Turner said.

Chatom, county seat of Washington County, is a small rural town. Only two traffic lights are located in the entire county; one is located in Chatom.

Elsie Williams, member of First Baptist Church Chatom, also thinks that this study is applicable to life in her small town.

"The Andy Griffith Show is so down to earth and the morals are so good. It shows us what family life and a community should be like," said Williams.

The main theme Dr. Turner has found in this study is in dealing with people. Many of the values that are exemplified in the show are about respect for authority and raising children.

"The values in the Andy Griffith show so often are about dealing with people - how to get along with your friends, your family, people in authority.

"The central value in each episode is dealing with people and caring about people enough to go the extra mile to help them. It makes us question the values we have as adults and what we pass on to our children," Turner said.

Dr. Turner said that Chatom, because it is a small town, can invoke these lessons of practical Christianity very easily.

Turner said the class has discussed how Andy's character often personifies an ideal Christian - one who looks for an opportunity to help someone else, even when there seems to be no answer to their problems.

They further analyzed Andy's character and realized that he tries to make the best of each situation, while Barney, the antagonist, always feels that it is too much of an inconvenience to try to help someone and continually has to be coerced by Andy. The class discussed how most people are probably more like Barney when they should be more like Andy.

Dr. Turner said these concepts can be applied to everyday life. He also said the ideas of the show easily transcend into his family life. "It helps me with my 12-year-old daughter, Jordi. Just seeing how Andy dealt with Opie - he gave him a little rope, not demanding him to follow a strict set of rules.

"He may sometimes let Opie make an actual mistake that would not be terribly harmful, but he knew that if he let Opie make the mistake, he would learn from it and come back and realize that he had messed up," Dr. Turner said.

"In these classes, we have had good attendance and excitement about what we're doing. I think it

St. Paul Elementary School parade rolls in Pass Christian on Friday

St. Paul Catholic Elementary School in Pass Christian will have its third annual Mardi Gras school parade at 1:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 23. The students will be dressed in costumes or box floats.

The parade route will be from 151 Scenic Drive (in front of the school) to Market, Market to Second Street, Second to Davis, Davis to Scenic and back to the school.

The grand marshal will be WLOX TV 13 meteorologist Mike Reader. Theme for this year is "Places That We Go."

Following the parade, the St. Paul Catholic School PTO will sponsor a king cake and punch party in the gym.

Visit the church or synagogue of your choice.

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East Hancock Elementary 2001 Science Fair



Botany and Microbiology grades 4-5 EHE Science Fair winners include Kelsey Rideout, Melissa Altsman, Jocelyn Laudisi, Duston Peterson and Wes Sanderford.



Behavioral and Social Science grades 4-5 EHE Science Fair winners are Emily Dracon, Ryan Miller and Jaymie Shaw.



Physics and Engineering grades 4-5 EHE Science Fair winners include Allston Lumpkin, Danny Cuervo, Melissa Wilson and Shelby Wild and Taylor Dearman, not pictured.



Physics and Engineering grades K-3 EHE Science Fair winners include Blair Hoda, Nikki Wild, Laura Wilson and Sarah Boozer.



Behavioral and Social Science grades K-3 EHE Science Fair winners are Bailey Hoda and Kristina Wheat.



Math, Computers, Earth and Space grades 4-5 EHE Science Fair winners include Chelsea Wahl, Bailey Stewart, Sam McElveen, John McElveen, Keith Wall, Dillon Shiyou and Hank Breazeale.



Zoology, Medicine and Health grades 4-5 EHE Science Fair winners include Lacie Cwiklik, Derae Graham, Brenee Ferrell and Courtney Moran.

East Hancock Elementary held its 2001 Science Fair with more than 125 students participating. At the conclusion, the following students were announced as the winners and some will proceed to the Regional Science Fair in Biloxi in February.

Botany and Microbiology grades 4-5:
Kelsey Rideout, first place; Wes Sanderford, second place; Melissa Altsman, third place; Jocelyn Laudisi, honorable mention, and Duston Peterson, honorable mention.

Physics and Engineering grades K-3:
Nikki Wild, first place; Laura Wilson, second place; Blair Hoda, third place; and Sarah Boozer, honorable mention.

Chemistry and Biochemistry grades 4-5:
Allston Lumpkin, first place; Shelby Wild, second place; Melissa Wilson, third place; Taylor Dearman, honorable mention; and Danny Cuervo, honorable mention.

Behavioral and Social Science grades K-3:
Bailey Hoda, first place, and Kristina Wheat, second place.

Behavioral and Social Science grades 4-5:
Jaymie Shaw, first place; Emily Dracon, second place; and Ryan Miller, third place.

Math, Computers, Earth and Space grades 4-5:
Hank Breazeale, first place; Chelsea Wahl, first place;

Dillon Shiyou, second place; Bailey Stewart, third place; John McElveen, honorable mention; Keith Wall, honorable mention; and Sam McElveen, honorable mention.

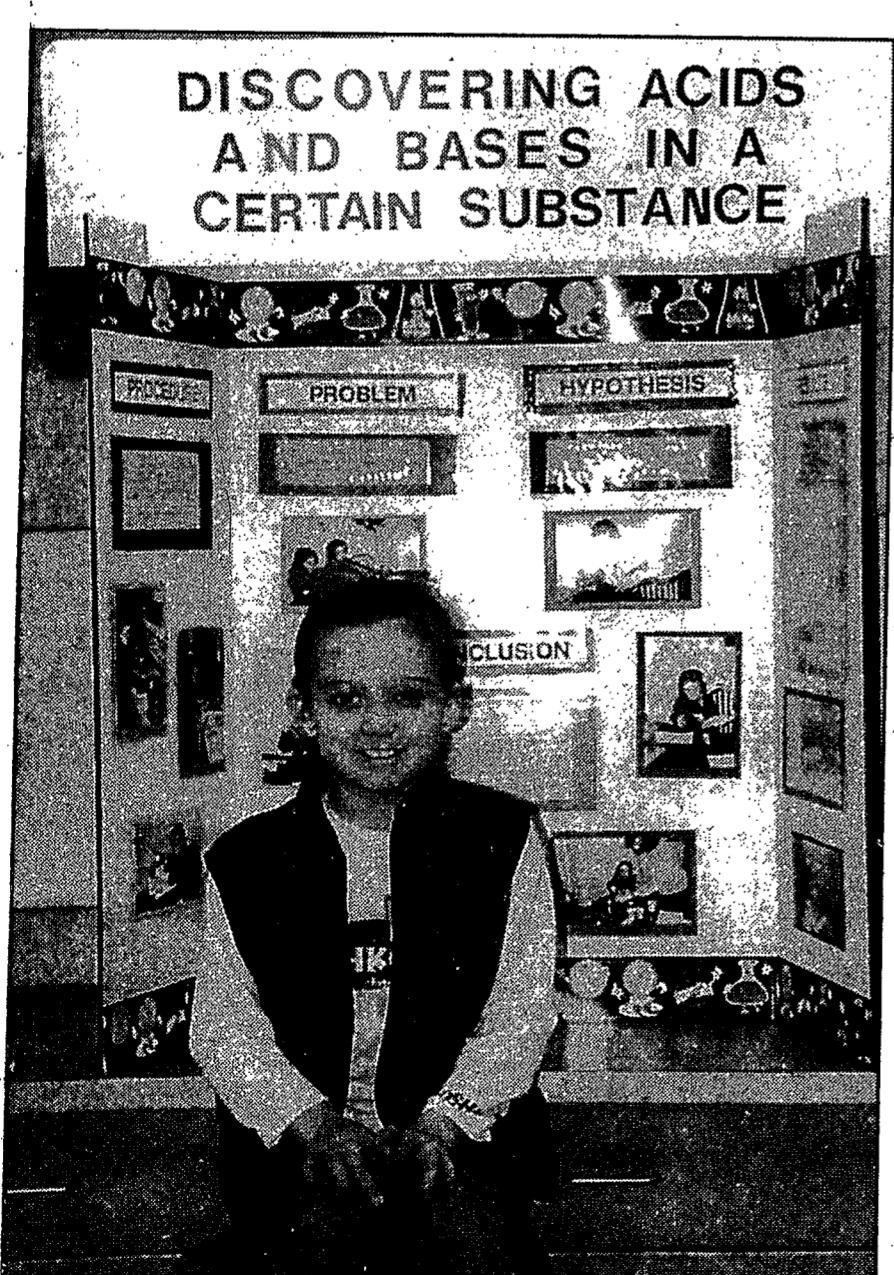
Zoology, Medicine and Health grades 4-5:
Courtney Moran, first place; Derae Graham, second place; Brenee Ferrell, third place; and Lacie Cwiklik, honorable mention.

Chemistry and Biochemistry grades K-3:
Elizabeth Boozer, first place, and Wil Adamec, second place.

Chemistry and Biochemistry grades 4-5:
Jessica Jelinski, first place; D.J. Bourgeois, second place; Jordan Talley, third place; and Casey Poulton, honorable mention.

Photos by Lydia K. Jelinski

Chemistry and Biochemistry grades 4-5 EHE Science Fair winners include Jordan Talley, Jessica Jelinski and D.J. Bourgeois. Casey Poulton is not pictured.



Chemistry and Biochemistry grades K-3 EHE Science Fair winners are Elizabeth Boozer and Wil Adamec, not pictured.

Births Continued from Page 3B

Paternal grandparents are Larry and Katherine Robinson of Patton, Mo.

Great-grandparents include Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Weber, Audrey Monica, Pearl Robinson and Ruby Wilfong.

ARIELLE DANIELLE SCHWARTZ

Tracy Schwartz of Bay St. Louis announces the birth of a daughter, Arielle Danielle, January 17, 2001 at 4:51 p.m. at Hancock Medical Center in Bay St. Louis.

She weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces.

Grandparents are Kathleen and Herbert Schwartz and Mary Schwartz.

Great-grandparents include Henry and Lillian Carver and the late Louise and Nicholas Schwartz.

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AUCTION SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH, 2001, 2:00 p.m., 220 Coleman Ave., Waveland, 228-467-5528. Over 100 Wool Pile Hand made Designs include: Heri, Tabriz, Kashan, Hamadan, Shiraz, Belouch, Mashad, Oushak

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Entertainment

Elvis making triumphant return to Mississippi Coast

BY ED LEPOMA
Staff Writer

In the mid-1950s, an up-and-coming singer named Elvis Presley visited the Mississippi Gulf Coast. He rented an apartment in Gulf Hills, invited his parents down, appeared in local clubs and romanced a local girl.

That girl, June Juanico, recalled in her book, "In the Twilight of Elvis," how Elvis loved the Mississippi Gulf Coast and how the people loved him, but respected his wish for some privacy.

The King of Rock and Roll has returned to the Gulf Coast in the body of Canadian Martin Fontaine. And, the Gulf Coast has once again given him a warm welcome.

"The Elvis Story," Fontaine's

King's life, exploring both his public on-stage image as well as the man's private side.

Cloutier and Pilote hired Quebec producer and artistic director, Mouffe, and the Elvis theme story began to come to life.

The next and most challenging piece of the puzzle was to find an individual capable not only of singing and dancing, but emulating the stage presence of Elvis. Originally, producers thought they might have to hire more than one individual to portray different times in the life of the singer.

That was until red-haired Martin Fontaine auditioned for the part in Montreal. Fontaine blew skeptics away with haunting renditions of Love Me

Realized Elvis' movements were actually quite simple. He just let himself go, enjoyed himself and put all his energy into performing."

"The Elvis Story" begins with the death of the King in Memphis in 1977 and flashes back to his childhood. The fast-paced show includes many film clips of Elvis with his mother and dad, Elvis when he first was discovered at Sun Records in Memphis, Elvis in the Army, in various movie roles and in his heyday in Las Vegas.

Fontaine takes the audience on a 90-minute roller-coaster ride without an intermission, and portrays Elvis from the time he was discovered at 18 until his untimely death at age 42.

He doesn't lip-synch. What you hear is live, all Fontaine. Makeup, Elvis wigs and dazzling costumes complete the illusion.

Fontaine is backed up by an equally talented chorus of six singers and three guitarists. The sets change with dazzling speed as Elvis enters another era of his life and the legend grows.

I was on hand for Fontaine's performance Feb. 8, and the excitement was electric. Long lines queued up to the ticket takers stationed at theatre doors. The crowd ran the gamut from young adults to grandmas. One Elvis impersonator was spotted in the crowd, sporting a gold lame cape and Elvis sideburns.

It took Fontaine one opening song to convince the audience they were in for a rare performance. Further into the act, excited girls screamed just as they did at Elvis concerts, and applause often broke out in the middle of songs.

By the end of the show, the transformation was complete. Fontaine sings a haunting version of "My Way" surrounded by swirling fog. Little old ladies and some, not so old, came to the end of the stage to shake his hand, and Fontaine, still singing, leans forward to shake their hand. He keeps the trade-

mark scarf around his neck. He leaves the stage to a standing ovation and thunderous applause.

"The Elvis Story" is the only tribute to the King sanctioned by Elvis Enterprises, which manages Graceland official Elvis memorabilia. As of this date, it has attracted more than 600,000 people to the show in Quebec.

The show has also had a major impact on Quebec City's tourist industry. Recent studies showed more than 79,000 hotel rooms were directly booked by people coming to see the show. Those same visitors spent almost \$14 million in restaurants, boutiques, shopping centers and other tourist attractions while visiting Quebec.

Grand officials in Biloxi are seeing an impact, too. They report the show sold more than 10,000 tickets at \$20 apiece in the first two weeks, and Elvis is boosting hotel occupancy, with \$79 packages that include two tickets to the concert.

The Bixby version is also attracting Canadians to the Coast. A group of 40 have already seen the show, and more are expected to arrive.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday through March 11. Tickets are \$19.95. For Reservations call: (800) WIN-2-WIN.

Tribute to the King, opened at Tender and My Way. And, six years into the role, he still has audiences screaming for more each night at the Biloxi Grand.

He explains, "I feel I've come to understand Elvis on a very personal level. If I were just an impersonator, I wouldn't have been able to penetrate the exterior facade of Elvis... I interpret, rather than imitate his music, which enables me to capture the feeling and the frenzy that he creates. It is this emotion and authentic portrayal of Elvis that pervades the entire show, said Fontaine.

"When we first began rehearsals for the show, I used to spend upwards of 15 hours a day singing, dancing and practicing the man's amazing body movements," said Fontaine. "I relied mostly on film and concert clips and would scrutinize his every move as well as his facial expressions... I finally

Sailing classes

The Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum is offering sailing classes aboard their 65-ft.-Biloxi Schooner's Glenn L. Swanson and Mike Sekul.

The classes will begin Sat., March 3 and will meet each Saturday for three hours, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. for a total of five sessions. The cost is \$125 for non-members, and \$100 for museum members, ages 12 years and older.

All classes will meet on the schooner. The schooner is located at Pt. Cadet Marina, Pier 1, directly behind the Isle of Capri Hotel, Hwy. 90 East, Biloxi.

For more details and to sign up, call the museum at 228-435-6320.

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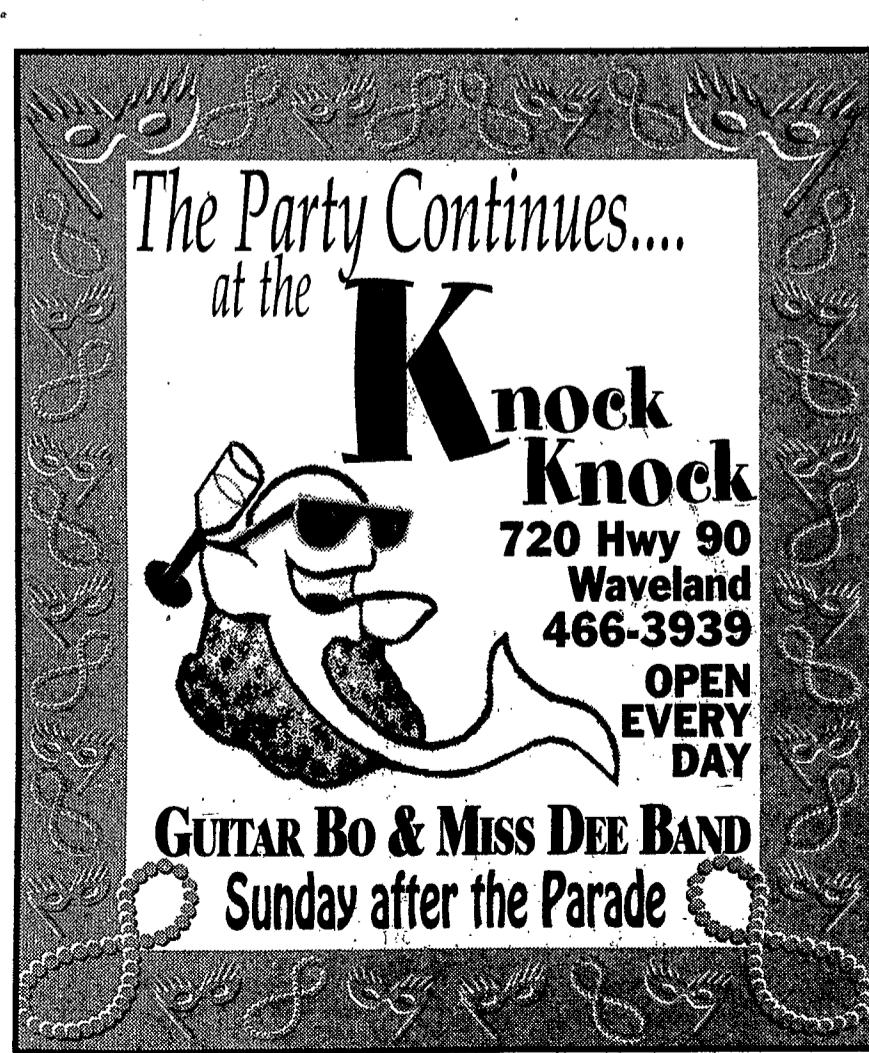
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